Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

ADJOURNED BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No. 20

The 22nd June, 1953

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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1955

(Adjourned Budget Session)

Vol. I, No.20

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Proceedings of the Seventh Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the First General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on Wednesday, the 22nd June, 1955.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamentary Secretaries and seventy-three Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Settlement of Land in Moriyasola Grant in Golaghat Subdivision

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked:

*52. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) How many Miri families had been given settlement of land in Moriyasola grant in Golaghat Subdivision ?

(*b*) In which year they had been given settlement of land at the said grant ?

(*c*) Who were those allottees (List of names may be laid on the table) and how many bighas of land had been allotted to each family ?

(*d*) Whether possession of the land settled and allotted had been delivered to the allottees ?

(*e*) Against how many non-Miri encroachers on the said grant eviction order was passed and whether eviction order was at all executed ?

(*f*) Whether any appeal was preferred by the encroachers before the Hon'ble Assam High Court in the year when eviction order was passed against the encroachers ?

(*g*) Whether the appeal petition was rejected by the Hon'ble Assam High Court and whether eviction order passed by the Lower Court was upheld by the Hon'ble High Court ?

(*h*) If so, whether and when eviction order was given effect to after the same was upheld by the Hon'ble High Court ?

(*i*) Whether any petition for settlement of the land with the encroachers on the grant in question was submitted by the encroachers to the Revenue Minister, Government of Assam ?

(*j*) If so, when and whether and how many of the encroachers against whom eviction order was passed had been given settlement of land by the Revenue Minister ?

(*k*) What are the grounds for giving allotment of land to them ?

(*l*) Whether lands had been allotted to the encroacher petitioners from out of the lands already kept allotted to the Miri families ?

(*m*) If so, why ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

52. (*a*)—51 Miri families.

(*b*)—In 1951-52.

(*c*)—Each family was allotted 10 bighas of land and a list of allottees is placed on the library table.

(*d*)—No, as the land was under encroachment of some non-allottees.

(*e*)—Eviction proceedings were started against 67 non-Miri encroachers. Some of them vacated the land after receipt of notice. As some of the encroachers obtained stay order from the High Court, the eviction order could not be executed against them. The exact number of the encroachers upon whom eviction order was passed cannot be furnished as the relevant papers were sent to the Hon'ble High Court and have not been received back.

(*f*)—Yes.

(*g*)—Yes.

(*h*)—The eviction order could not be given effect to as on receipt of an application for settlement of land from the encroachers a stay order was issued by Government.

(*i*)—Yes.

(*j*)—Under Government's order, dated 28th July 1954, sixteen families were ordered to be given settlement of land.

(*k*)—After the first requisition order they were selected by the land Settlement Advisory Committee and they spent a lot of money to clear the land. The above mentioned 16 families were either landless or persons with uneconomic holdings. The settlement in this line was made by Government so as to create a peaceful atmosphere between the contending parties by way of a settlement.

(*l*)—No. Land was allotted to these 16 families out of the entire requisitioned area. In doing this, of course, the allotments of the 51 Miri families and 9 non-Miri families had to undergo some reduction.

(*m*)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply to (*k*) above.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: May I know if both the parties were heard at the time of settlement, Sir ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It was not considered necessary, Sir.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Whether any Advocate appeared on behalf of the encroachers, Sir ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Might be, Sir. I cannot say exactly.

Shri SARJU PROSAD SINGH: When was that particular grant thrown open for settlement first ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It is there in the reply, Sir. It was during 1951-52.

Shri SARJU PROSAD SINGH: Who were the persons who first opened the grant, Sir ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It was of course opened by some non-Miris along with some Miris.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Amount of money spent in each Mauza of Barpeta Subdivision by the Local Board during the years 1947-55

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

142. Will the Minister of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent in each Mauza of Barpeta Subdivision by the Local Board during the years 1947-55 ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) replied :

142.—Expenditures of Local Boards are not made Mauzawise and as such it is not possible to furnish the information.

Private Members' Resolution to appoint a Committee to examine the present pay scales of Government servants so as to suggest necessary revision and modification thereof

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution No.35.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking on the Resolution of my Friend, Sriman Prafulla Goswami, with regard to the question of revision of pay scales of the Government servants. In addition, I have got to say that the time has come when Government should examine the pay scales of the Government servants and take steps to revise them in keeping with the requirements of the time. The problem of revision of the pay scales of the Government servants has

become a very pressing one in view of the huge requirement of personnel necessary to implement the gigantic schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan in which we are about to enter upon, and of these personnel, our greatest difficulty is in regard to the availability of the technical personnel. We are already short of technical personnel in the State and we have had to recruit some of them from outside the State, particularly for the Public Works Department. Therefore, this is the proper time to make a proper assessment of the total requirements of the various Government Departments first and fix their pay scales in order to make it attractive—attractive not only to draw the right type of personnel from within the State but also from outside the State. Of course, Government have set up some Training Institutions for the training of the personnel, but this will take sometime and we shall have to recruit personnel from outside in the meantime and for some time to come, and unless we make their pay scales attractive, we shall not get the right type of personnel and as a result our useful schemes will suffer. Moreover, we have taken up certain State avrading Schemes on commercial lines, as for instance, we The taken the Road Transport, and for these also we should revise the pay scales of the personnel working in such undertakings, otherwise we shall not be able to compete with the private concerns who pay generally higher scales of pay. Therefore, Sir, this is the proper time for this important question before us to examine it in all its bearings. Sir, so far as the State Tradings are concerned, I think we have not followed so far the same principles as commercial undertakings generally follow. We know the commercial undertakings pay certain amount of bonus or commission to their employees out of their earnings, particularly we know in the tea gardens the higher officers are paid commission. As a matter of fact, there is an agitation also that the labour should get certain bonus in a share of the profit We may also consider the same in case of the State Trade and industrial undertakings, because, after all, the question of efficiency depends a great deal on the incentive offered to the employees. You cannot expect the employees to put forth their best unless they are paid adequately. So, for the successful execution of the Second Five Year Plan in particular, it is necessary that we fix the scales of the Government servants commensurate with the requirements of the situation. Therefore the Government would do well to appoint a Committee representative of persons having special knowledge on this subject which will go into the problem and submit its report to the Government for consideration, before it is too late. With these words, I support the Resolution of my Friend, Shri Goswami.

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মান গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ বিষয়ে মইয়ো দুষাৰমান কথা কবলৈ ঠিয় হৈছো। মাৰ প্ৰথম পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা সমাপ্ত প্ৰায়। আমি অলপ অনুভৱো কৰিছো যে এই থম পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ জৰিয়তে আমাৰ দেশৰ সৰ্ব্ব সাধাৰণৰ অৱস্থাও কিছ উন্নত হছে। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ অৱস্থাৰ কোনো পৰিবৰ্ত্তন নোহোৱাটো শোভনীয় নহয়। মোৰ বোধেৰে তেওঁলোকৰ অৱস্থাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণেও এটা পৰিকল্পনা াততে লোৱা আৱশ্যক। বিশেষকৈ তল খাপৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ অৱস্থাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তনৰ বাবে তওলোকৰ দৰমহা কিছুপৰিমাণে বৃদ্ধি হোৱা দৰকাৰ। মই ভাবো দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ লগে লগে এই চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ অৱস্থাৰো এটা মানদণ্ড নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ প্ৰতি ৫ বছৰে ৫ বছৰে একোটা কমিটি তৈয়াৰ কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহাৰ হাৰ ধাৰ্য্য কৰিব লাগে। কৰ্ম্মচাৰী সকলৰ ডাঙৰ ভাগৰ মাজত সদায় অসন্তুষ্টিৰ ভাব দেখা যায়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ হল, একে যোগ্যতা থকা দুটা চাকৰীয়ালৰ মাজত থকা দৰমহাৰ তাৰতম্য। একে লেখা পঢ়া শিকি এজনে আনজনতকৈ দুগুণ তিনিগুণ দৰমহা পায়। তলখাপৰ কৰ্ম্মচাৰী সকলে কামো কৰে বেচি দৰমহাও পায় কম। দুবেলা দুমুঠি খাবলৈকো নোযোৱে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ গোটেই শাসন যন্ত্ৰটোৰ শিথিলতা আহিছে। শাসন যন্ত্ৰ অচল হোৱাৰ দৰে হৈছে।

ওপৰৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলে যি দৰে নিৰ্দ্দেশ দিয়ে তলৰ সকলে সেই মতেই কাম কৰি যায় সঁচা, কিন্তু আচল কাম যিনি তলৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলেহে কৰে আৰু চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ ওপৰতহে আচলতে কাম নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকক যদি দৰমহা বঢ়াই দিয়া নহয় তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকে কামত কোনো উৎসাহ নাপায়। সেই কাৰণে আমি চাৰিওফালৰ পৰা তলতীয়া চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ পৰা আপত্তি আৰু অসন্তুষ্টিৰ কথা শুনিব লাগিছো।

আৰু এটা কথা হৈছে যে আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমান দৰমহাৰ তাৰতম্যটো বৰ বেচি। একে শিক্ষা—পোৱা সেই একে B.A. পাচ কৰা সকলৰ ভিতৰত কিছুমানে হাকিম হৈ আৰু কিছুমানে Sub-Deputy Collector হৈ যি দৰমহা পায় আৰু সেই একে B. A. পাচ কৰি কিছুমান কেৰাণী কাম কৰি তেওঁলোকতকৈ বহুত কম দৰমহা পায়। তেনেস্থলত তলৰ বিলাকৰ অন্তৰ্দাহ অহা স্বাভাবিক। তলখাপৰ বিলাকে চাকৰি বজায় ৰাখিবলৈ কাম কৰিব লাগে, কাম কৰিছে, কিন্তু অন্তৰত প্ৰেৰণা নাই। অন্তৰৰ প্ৰেৰণা নহলে ভাল কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। অৱশ্যে মই কব খোজা নাই যে ওপৰৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলৰ দৰমহা কমাই দিব লাগে মোৰ কথা হৈছে যে তলৰ সকলৰ দৰমহা বঢ়াই দি তাৰতম্যটো কমাই দিব লাগে।

আৰু এটা হৈছে যে চৰকাৰে চাৰিও ফালৰ পৰা দুৰ্নীতি কমাবৰ কাৰণে নানা চেষ্টা কৰিছে সেই বুলি দুৰ্নীতি জানো কমিছে বা দুৰ্নীতি জানো বন্ধ কৰিব পাৰিছে।

আমি সকলোৱে জানো যে অভাৱেই স্বভাৱ নষ্টৰ মূল। যদি সচাকৈয়ে দুৰ্নীতি আতৰাবলৈ বিচাৰো তেনেহলে—তলখাপৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলক পেট ভৰাই দুবেলা দুমুঠি আহাৰ খাবলৈ আৰু পিন্ধিবলৈ সুবিধা দিব লাগিব। তাকেই যদি আমি কৰিব নোৱাৰো তেনেহলে চাকৰীয়ালৰ মাজত দুৰ্নীতি কেতিয়াও বন্ধ হব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে মই কও যে, যেতিয়া এই সম্পৰ্কীয় কমিটী বহিব তেতিয়া এই বিলাক কথা যেনে ভালদৰে কহিয়াই বিবেচনা কৰা হয়। ইয়াকে কৈ মই শ্ৰীমান গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, by bringing forward this Resolution has given an opportunity to Government to state Government's point of view in this matter, and I, therefore,

thank him for this. This Resolution appears to represent the opinion of a major section of people, especially those who come under the category of low-paid officers. There has been, of late, a great demand coming from various quarters for establishment of a Pay Committee in this State. Prominent Congressmen and various Congress Organisation have also given their unqualified support to this move to have a Pay Committee afresh. The Avadi resolution also strengthens the position of the Movers for having a Pay Committee established as early as possible. It has been urged from various quarters that the existing pay structure is not based on a principle of equity. It is said that there are flaws, anomalies and inconsistencies in the existing pay structure. It has, therefore, been urged to have a new Pay Committee to go into the whole question so that the pay structure that we want to have, can be based on some equitable principle.

The question, of course, is not an easy one. It bristles with very many difficulties and it involves some delicate consideration as well. It may need a very comprehensive enquiry, a detailed and prolonged examination of the whole question from various angles.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, said in his speech yesterday that the Resolution is an innocuous one and should be accepted by Government. I would have been very glad if I could accept this statement that it is an innocuous Resolution; it is far from it. This Resolution has got very weighty implications in it. The implications are so weighty that under the very weight it is possible that we may break down also. The Resolution, though it appears to be a simple and innocuous one, is not really so, it has got weighty implications behind it. This Resolution is sought to be supported by my Friends, as we are going to have a new society based on socialistic principles in consequence of the Avadi resolution of the Congress. It is no doubt a good thing to have a socialistic pattern of society, but, Sir, a socialistic pattern of society should not be confined merely to the Governmental sphere, it should be allowed to percolate into the other spheres also, especially the domestic sphere. I have no doubt in my mind that in course of time this resolution will have very far-reaching consequences on the domestic sphere as well.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Let us begin from administration side.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I have no objection to it, personally speaking, I am not afraid of that and we must be prepared for it. Sir, socialistic pattern of society should not confine only to Governmental spheres, it has other spheres to percolate, namely the domestic spheres. I think, I am quite clear when I say that when this question comes up, lots of inconveniences are bound to be created in course of time, but I am ready for that and we must be prepared for it.

Sir, most of my Friends, while participating in the discussion, had given out their minds as to what the pay structure should be according to them. Some of them said that the minimum pay should not be less than Rs. 100, and some of them have opined that the maximum pay should not be allowed to go beyond Rs. 1,000 . But the Resolution itself does not mean anything of that sort. The Resolution only says— " To examine the present pay scales of Government servants so as to suggest necessary revised pay scales and modifications..... . " Sir, what the Pay Committee will do, I do not know. Some of my Friends, while participating in the discussions, had held that this Resolution is intended for increasing the pay scales, but it may mean otherwise also. The Resolution means revision of the pay scales, it does not mainly mean enhancement, it may mean many things. It may mean even by the word revision, reduction in the pay scales also. But some of my Friends who have taken part in the discussions have held that the Resolution is intended only to increase the pay scales of the low paid officers. I cannot myself anticipate what the Pay Committee will do, Sir. But, Sir, the Pay Committee that is intended by the Mover of the Resolution and others who have taken part in the discussions should consist of experienced persons with open mind. We should not have persons in that Pay Committee who have definite views on the matter. After all the question should be examined from so many points, from so many angles. Therefore, it should, as my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, said, consist of experienced persons, something like experts.

Sir, my Friend, Mr. Sarma, from Tezpur is apprehending that the bureaucratic machinery will not be able to do anything even if the Pay Committee is there, but my Friend has not suggested anything alternative to it and no helpful suggestion is forthcoming from the hon. Member. None of the hon. Members has suggested anything, but most of them

are very vociferous regarding case of pay scales. I would have been very glad if this resolution was accompanied by another Resolution for finding out resources. It would have been more helpful.

A Resolution of this nature should have been highly welcomed if another Resolution accompanied it to find out ways and means in the matter of giving relief to the low paid Government servants. But I do not find any suggestion from the hon. Members as to wherefrom the resources will come, if the Committee recommends advancement of pay. This Pay Committee will go into all these things and if the Pay Committee recommends revision of the pay scales to the extent of 2 crores, wherefrom the fund will come, that is a point where I am finding a difficulty. There should have been suggestions like that from the hon. Members. At any rate, Sir, I am sorry that no such suggestion is forthcoming on that score. My Friend, Mr. Das, from Gauhati said that this Government is spending about 16 per cent. of revenue on pay of high officers.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said 67 per cent.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, that is not the true statement. We are spending only 20 per cent. on salaries and only 3 per cent for officers getting and drawing about Rs. 800 and upwards.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: What about amenities?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Amenities will not be higher than the salaries given.

Now, Sir, taking an over-all picture of the situation and also with the desire to fall in line with the views expressed both inside and outside, it has been decided by the Government to accept the Resolution in principle. Therefore, I am very glad to accept this Resolution—the principle underlying the Resolution—on behalf of Government. I have already passed orders directing the Finance Department to formulate certain things, at least to finalise the terms of reference. Sir, nothing has been actually said in this Resolution as to what should be the terms of reference to the Pay Committee, and none of the hon. Member has given any indication as to what should, be the terms of reference to this Pay Committee. I have myself directed the Finance Department to finalise the terms and also further, I have directed the Finance Department to

correspond with the other States to get information regarding this matter in respect of the pay scales in other States, including India. I have also asked the Finance Department to do other preliminary works. When these things are done, the personnel of the Pay Committee will be announced in due course.

Again, Sir, I thank Mr. Goswami for having brought forward this important Resolution. With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do appoint a committee to examine the present pay scales of Government servants so as to suggest necessary revised pay scales and modifications for consideration of the Government.

(The Resolution was adopted)

Private Members' Resolution *re*: Establishment of at least one dispensary in each Mouza of the State.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that at least one dispensary be established in each Mauza of this State.

Sir, we are now independent and not under foreign rule. We are having the idea of socialistic pattern of society in our minds. More than 80 per cent. of the population of this State live in rural areas and they depend upon agriculture. We are to see their most miserable lots also. At this time thousands and thousands of our sisters and brothers living in the rural areas are dying like cats and dogs for want of proper medical help when they suffer from any disease because there is no hospital or dispensary in many unfortunate parts of this State. I may mention one such unfortunate part in the Barpeta Subdivision. In Barpeta Subdivision there is an area of about 600 sq. miles and the population will be more than 80 thousand, where there is no hospital or dispensary. When this population of this area suffer from any kind of disease, they depend upon the name of God and the tears of their eyes are their medicines. Such unfortunate Mauzas are Bagribari, Mondia, Bagbar and Titapani. Such unfortunate parts are available in Goalpara, Darrang and other Districts of this State Hospitals or dispensaries either from Local Boards or from Public

Health Department or subsidised dispensaries should be provided in the rural areas on area and population basis. There should be one hospital or dispensary for every 10,000 population. Our Medical Minister, in his reply, will certainly say that for dearth of doctors new dispensaries cannot be opened and he will also say that public are to construct the buildings for dispensaries. In reply I shall say that there are many private doctors in this State and for insufficient pay they do not like to go to the interior places. If sufficient pay and other allowances are given to the doctors then they will certainly go to the interior places. It is not a question of dearth of Doctors but it is a question of their pay and allowances.

The next point is that the public are to construct the buildings. But the people of the area I have mentioned are so poor that they cannot subscribe. They are saving their families by cutting earth together with the Noonia labourers in the works of embankments and P.W.D. roads.

Lastly I like to say that in some areas we have seen giving "তেলীৰ মুৰত তেল". This is not fair. All parts of our State should get equal consideration at least from Government.

With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that at least one dispensary be established in each Mauza of this State.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Mover of the Resolution knows it quite well that the primary responsibility of establishing dispensaries in rural areas rests with the Local Boards, and even then from the Government side we have been opening both Public Health and subsidised dispensaries in the rural areas. My Friend wants to have one dispensary in each Mauza. As you know, Sir, the size of the Mauzas differs from place to place and we have accepted the principle that there should be one dispensary within an area of 5 miles. There are Mauzas which are perhaps more than 5 miles in area and there are Mauzas also which are smaller in size. I do not know whether my Friend has got the information as to the number of Mauzas in the plains districts. I have got the information that in the five plains districts, barring Cachar and Goalpara, we have about 300 Mauzas and on the average we have got about 60 Mauzas in

one plains district. So, in all the plains districts there are approximately as many as 420 Mauzas. I will give the figures to the hon. Member that in our State we have got as many as 512 dispensaries, including the Local Board dispensaries and out of this in the plains districts we have got 171 Local Board dispensaries, 135 subsidised dispensaries and 90 Public Health dispensaries. This year we are going to open 10 more Public Health and 15 subsidised dispensaries. This shows that in this year we will have as many as 421 dispensaries and against this we have got 420 Mauzas. So, it appears that we are already above the standard of the Mover of the Resolution.

My hon. Friend has not given me any specific names of villages where dispensaries are intended to be located. If he gives me any specific names I will consider where dispensaries can be provided in his Subdivision.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: The names of the places where hospitals or dispensaries should be provided are (1) Alirpam in Mauza Mondia, (2) Tarabari in Mauza Bagribari and (3) Moinabari in Mauza Bagbar.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Alright, I will remember them. Under the Second Five-Year Plan we have already taken a decision to convert all the dispensaries including the Local Board dispensaries into State dispensaries and I hope that it will be possible for us to meet the demand of the people to provide dispensaries in those areas where there are no dispensaries now. We have got a definite programme to increase the number of dispensaries under the Second Five-Year Plan.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Will all the dispensaries be taken over by the Government under the next Five-Year Plan ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister): Yes, we have taken a decision to convert all the dispensaries, including the Local Board dispensaries, into State dispensaries under the Second Five-Year Plan.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: What is the number of dispensaries that will be taken over by the Government ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): All the existing dispensaries will be converted into State dispensaries under the Plan.So, Sir, it will be possible for us to open dispensaries in the areas mentioned by my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Resolution.

In view of this I hope the hon. mover will withdraw his Resolution.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution. But in this connection I would again urge that one dispensary should be given to each of the following places, *viz.*, Moinbari in Baghbor Mauza, Mandia in Mandia Mauza and Tarabari in Bagribari Mauza.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Is there any Mauza where no dispensary is located?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, he said so.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

Resolution for not evicting landless peasants who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas lands without settling them with alternate and Suitable land

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam should not evict those landless peasants who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas Lands without settling them with alternate and suitable land.

In moving this Resolution, Sir, I am in good company of no less a personage than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself. Just before his departure from India on his way to the Soviet Union, Panditji had publicly stated that it was criminal to evict peasants from land. We have also seen the latest move throughout the country in the matter of agrarian reforms. We have noted with pleasure that the Congress organisation also appears te have taken up the issue with earnestness and committees have been appointed for going into the question of giving land to the peasantry. We have also seen that during the First Five-Year Plan the Planning Commission had given particular emphasis on the agrarian question and in the progress report of the First Five-Year Plan also we have seen that added emphasis has been given to this question. While the Second Five-Year Plan is being discussed we have seen that the points of view of different

quarters have agreed that agrarian problem should be more earnestly taken up and agrarian reforms should be completed if we want to industrialise our country, as we propose to do during the Second Five-Year Plan period. In view of this it has now become necessary for this Government also to change their attitude because in the past Sessions of this Assembly we have been hearing from the Revenue Minister and also from other respectable Members of the Government that their first concern is law and order, that those who have broken the law, those who have become encroachers, must first of all be evicted and "law and order" must be proved to be supreme and then only the question of settlement of land to them may be considered. I think, Sir, the emphasis should be not so much on evicting the encroachers as giving settlement of land to the peasants who are really in need of land. I have, therefore, worded my Resolution in very careful terms. I have not stated that all encroachers should be encouraged to squat where they are. I have stated that only landless peasants, who had for their very existence to go to some Government reserves of fallow Khas land should be specially considered. I have not stated that they should be necessarily given land where they are, but alternate and suitable land. Now, when this is a question of life and death with the peasants, they would naturally grab lands which are near at hand. Sometimes it so happens that a particular piece of land cannot be settled with anybody. If any peasant has encroached on such land he should be asked to move to an alternate and suitable land provided to him but he should not be simply thrown to the winds. That is my suggestion. Ours is a country which is predominantly agricultural ; all our plans, all our programmes and all our future prosperity depend on the economic condition of the peasantry. If a vast number of our peasantry be without any means of livelihood, which they will necessarily be, if they have, on the one hand, no land and, on the other, no employment in industries, then we cannot expect that our Second Five-Year Plan—or for the matter of that any plan—will be successful.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are instances of encroachers who have 40 or 50 bighas of land.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My suggestion is only with regard to landless peasants. Those who are neither landless nor peasants will, of course, be evicted because they have no right to be there. But every human being has a right to live and in a welfare State it is the duty of the State to see that every citizen gets that right and, therefore, my Resolution confines itself only to landless peasants and not to one

and all encroachers. Even in their case I have not suggested that they should necessarily be allowed to stay where they are. I have only said that before evicting them, they should be provided with alternate and suitable land.

This, I say not only from the general economic point of view but also from two other points of view. Firstly, it is a matter of great contention as to whether there are surplus lands in our State. There are some who say that there are surplus lands, while others, who are equally responsible and respectable, say that there are no lands. At any rate, it is a question which is in great public debate. We also know that in the country there cannot be any vacuum. If we keep some reserves of land fallow and at the same time if we have some landless people then somehow or other, they will flow to that vacuum, *i. e.*, the fallow land and there will be constant strife, encroachment, eviction and so on. Therefore, before the question becomes all the more complicated and acute, before the question becomes almost too big for the Government to tackle, this problem must be taken in hand and solved.

Then, again, we have seen influx of people from outside the State is continuing. Whether we like it or not, it is a fact that people from outside are coming to our State. If we do not allot the existing land to the existing people of our State, then in future when the question of allotment shall have to be taken up, all these newcomers will also clamour for land and there will be fresh newcomers. At that time we shall see that the indigenous people may not be getting the same treatment as they would be getting today if the land problem is settled here and now.

Then again, there are some who suggest that there should be some reserve for future generations, that if we give away all the land that is in our hand, what will happen to the future generations ? There are two counter arguments on this question. The first one will be that one should not—to use an Assamese proverb—give more care to the child that would be than the child that is on the lap. That is to say, the necessity of those who are already in existence should get priority over the anticipatory necessity of those who are expected to be. Apart from that we see that if we cannot give these people alternate employment, there will be dire consequences. They will be a burden to the nation. If they have no land to cultivate, if they have no industry to work in, they shall be unemployed people, or they shall have to engage themselves in part-time jobs and they cannot help the nation to work in productive enterprises.

Therefore, in order to harness the man-power that we have, it is all the more necessary that the Government should make provision for all the able-bodied persons to get employment, where they are best suited. Along with that it is necessary to find out industries and if and when our State will be industrially developed, there will be scope for our future generations for getting employment in big industries and subsidiary industries. Our future generations will get better scope and opportunity if we can make the foundation strong. There are some countries, for example, Belgium where they have far bigger density of population than we have in India. There the problem of hunger is not so much because in their country there are modern industries and people there are given better employment. There is no reason why our State will not be able to develop in the near future or within a few decades in doveloping industries, provided we can make a solid foundation of the State, of the society at present. In that case, there will be better opportunity for generations to come. From all these points of view, it is urgently necessary that Government should give particular care and attention to the existing population, especially the backbone of the population, *i. e.*, the peasantry. Therefore, I suggest that Government should revise their iron rod attitude. On the contrary, Government should give more humane approach to the problem. Then there will be co-operation forthcoming from all quarters and then the major problem of our State, namely, the agrarian problem will go a long way in its solution.

With these words, Sir, and with the promise of our full cooperation in the matter of solution of this problem, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam should not evict those landless peasants who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas Lands without settling them with alternate and suitable land.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I share the feelings of Mr. Bhattacharyya who has moved the Resolution about the intensity of the land problem in the State, but, while I agree with him that the Government should do all that is possible to solve the problem of landlessness, at the same time, I feel that certain difficulties will arise, particularly in the administrative sphere if the Resolution has got to be given effect to literally.

He said that the Government should not evict those landless persons who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas lands without giving them alternate and suitable land. Now, this envisages a big question, as a matter of fact, it brings within its scope the whole question of land. We first of all should find out the number of landless people in the State, then there should be a simultaneous survey in each district to find out the area of land available for settlement with these persons. Then the question arising from the difference between the land available and the number of landless persons to be provided with, should be taken into consideration.

Then, Sir, on the question of encroachment, we should not, as far as possible, evict the encroachers until the Government have adopted a planned policy for settlement in every district. We know that there are certain people who have no land but unless a plan for progressive settlement is drawn up to find out the number of landless people and after enquiry the names of such persons are registered, no planned settlement will be possible. It may also be necessary to place the landless persons under various categories.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have not we got such lists and maps in Assam ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: I don't think that there is a comprehensive list. We have got maps but the point is this that to ascertain the total area of land available for settlement there should be a survey and also an enquiry to find out the number of landless people in the State. If we do not solve the problem in a planned manner then the landless people will remain so forever, and it will go to show that the Government is negligent in solving this important problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is an estimate that 2 lakhs of families are without land.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: There should be a plan for settlement. There are various categories of deserving landless persons. For example, there are people who have lost their land due to erosion and there are people who lost their land due to negligence or other reasons. The survey should be made according to a plan so that we may progressively settle as particular category of landless people. I know in many district-people are encroaching into Forest Reserves and creating problem for the Government. There are several categories of Reserves, such as, forest reserves, ordinary grazing reserves and

professional grazing reserves, etc., etc. These reserves are governed by some rules. In the case of some reserves, *viz.*, forest reserves the rules are stringent. Therefore, we cannot treat all these encroachments with the same amount of latitude or leniency. To condone encroachment will have the effect of indirectly encouraging encroachment on Government reserves or Khas Lands. But in my opinion, the policy of land settlement should be such as not to force people in dire need to resort to encroachment.

So, Sir, I say that Government should draw up a plan enabling the landless people to know where they should register and with whom they should register for the purpose of getting land. But if there is no land available in a particular area, they should be given land elsewhere. Here the difficulty is that the people do not like to go for settlement unless they get land nearest to their houses. My point, Sir, is that if we adopt a policy that the encroachers will be given land elsewhere then there will be tendency for encroachment which will lead to serious complications. So, to avoid all these difficulties it will be better if Government adopts a clear cut policy on land settlement. Once the landless people know of this policy of Government they will not have a tendency to encroach. I, therefore, suggest that the best thing to do in this connection is, as I have already said, for Government to have a clear cut programme for settlement of land having regard to the amount of land available in different districts. As I said, the people do not like to be shifted from one district to another. They want land nearer to their homes. This factor should also be borne in mind.

Then again, we should have a comprehensive scheme for the purpose of reclaiming lands which have remained unutilised. We know, Sir, that there are such lands which can be reclaimed but which the people could not reclaim by themselves because the cost of reclamation is too high for them. Government would do well if a survey is made of such lands which can be reclaimed and make such land cultivable by reclamation under schemes to be financed by Government so that the landless people could be settled therein. Unless these things are done I don't think we will be able to solve this land problem. Therefore, I suggest that Government should adopt a scheme to tackle this land problem which now has become more and more acute in a more systematic and planned manner. For this purpose, Government would do well if they set up a separate Department with sufficient personnel to deal with this question of land problem to make a survey of all landless people, and of unutilised land that could be reclaimed and devise ways and means for settlement of the landless people.

But, Sir, at the same time I feel that if there is a general policy of Government that all encroachers would be given land elsewhere then it may be difficult for Government to deal with the tendency towards useful encroachment. Some safeguards should be devised for this. With these words, Sir, I add my unqualified support to the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. Sir, landless people are also human beings and not beasts, or birds. For their existence they must have some land. They cannot live like birds on the trees or like beasts in the jungles and forests. For their very existence they have encroached on Government Khas Land or reserved land. If they are evicted without giving them alternative land, then where will they live ? I want to draw the pointed attention of the Government to save the lives of these people and give them shelter. It will be inhuman on our part to evict them without giving them land at least for their Bustis. If there is no land available for them, then wherefrom have they encroached ? If actually there is no land then the encroachers should be given alternative jobs and works for their existence. They should be given some land for their Bustis, and they should be given employment under the Government. On the whole, the encroachers should not be evicted without giving alternative land for their existence because I have seen personally in my sub-division that at least 2 thousand families are landless due to erosion of river and they have to take shelter in Government Khas Land and forest reserves. If these people are not given land, I repeat where then will they live ?

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to reply to some of the points raised by my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, before the Minister gives his reply. Sir, as a matter of fact, my Friend raised three points in his qualified support to my Resolution and most probably these points would be raised by the Government also. Sir, firstly, he raised the question of priority. Now, Sir, in this connection my Friend said that there are some who are flood-affected, there are some who are river-eroded and there may be others again who are earthquake stricken. At any rate, there are different causes—natural as well as man-made—through which

many people have become landless. As soon as a man is landless he is landless whether it is by erosion or due to earthquake or flood or even due to feudal exploitation. So, whatever is the cause, he is landless and he should get equal opportunity as any other landless man.

The second point he raised is about administrative difficulties. Sir, I am not myself blind to this problem. I know, there will be some administrative difficulties, but then these administrative difficulties will not be insurmountable. If we think about the difficulties of a very large number of people who are landless—difficulties which threaten their very existence—then these administrative difficulties are not to be regarded as very big or very material. These difficulties, as a matter of fact, are also faced by other sister States in India. They have not only faced these difficulties but have also overcome them. They take resort to some Ordinances prohibiting eviction.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you cannot make a statement again.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am replying to the second point, Sir, raised by my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin. Now, Sir, in West Bengal, in Orissa and in Travancore-Cochin some Ordinances were passed prohibiting eviction. Our Government can also pass such Ordinance even before amending the Land Revenue Manual or the Forest Manual temporarily stopping eviction and so these difficulties will be overcome.

The third point is that there should be a comprehensive programme adopted by the Government, and then only the question of settlement of landless people arises. So far as my Resolution is concerned, my main point is that the people should not be evicted and in the meantime while the *status quo* is maintained, Government should take up a comprehensive programme of enquiry. During the interim period those helpless encroachers may be allowed to remain where they are so that all these difficulties may be overcome. As a matter of fact, to my knowledge three of our sister States have taken up programmes like this. I hope our Government will also do likewise.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: চাব, মই এটা কথা কব খোজো।

Mr. SPEAKER: No. Mr. Bora will reply.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question of eviction of encroachers and settlement of land with landless people has been discussed on the floor of the House times without number, and on every occasion Government have made their policy abundantly clear regarding this matter. But again and again this matter has been raised, and to-day once again we are discussing one and the same matter although, Sir, I regret to find that no new grounds have been traded upon by the Mover of this Resolution or by his supporters. All the grounds that have been adduced in the discussions to-day were raised on previous occasions also.

Now, Sir, before going into the points raised by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, I should like to tell him that it was not proper on his part to invoke the aid of our Prime Minister, by referring to a statement in support of his Resolution. Panditji, as far as I know, made that statement under altogether different context and under altogether different circumstances. While he was making a statement of that sort, it had reference to eviction of tenants by landlords, tenants who were settled on lands by landlords, under a kind of mutual arrangements. The circumstances under which that statement was made by Panditji are not applicable here so far as encroachers are concerned. Therefore, I say, Sir, my Friend was not right in referring to a statement made by Panditji under different circumstances altogether. Mr. Bhattacharyya while moving this Resolution has put it to the House in such an intelligent manner that he converted his Motion almost to an appeal so that the House may accept it without putting in any opposition. Another reason for him to place his facts in the manner he did is to get support, if not from the House, Members of which are intelligent enough to understand his game, but at least from the people outside.

Now, Sir, in his speech, Mr. Bhattacharyya has taken for granted that we have got plenty of waste lands in Assam, and therefore, in order to solve the problem of land encroachment, Government should immediately give lands to the encroachers. This assumption, Sir, to say the least, is without any foundation.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This is a debatable question.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes, it is a debatable point if one party holds that there is no land and another party holds that there are sufficient lands to spare. But if you agree that there is no land, then this Resolution does not come in. Therefore, you are with the other party who holds that there is enough land. But as you, according to your point, do not hold the view of the Government, you say that there is sufficient land. I want to contradict this point of view, with all earnestness at my command. Sir, there are no lands to spare in Assam except, of course, lands in the Professional Grazing, Village Grazing and Forest Reserves. If one holds the view that these Professional Grazing Reserves, Village Grazing Reserves and Forest Reserves should be thrown open to these encroachers, then, of course, it is a different thing. But if these people are to be settled in culturable waste lands, that makes the position quite different. There are, of course, some interested people whose intention is to swamp this State with people from outside and they will naturally state that there are enough lands. If my Friend subscribes to that point of view that is another thing. Sir, the Revenue Department of the State that we have is one of the oldest and very well-established Department. This Department, after various enquiries and several surveys carried on extensively all over the State, have come to the definite conclusion that there is no culturable waste lands in the State sufficient enough even to settle the indigenous landless and river-eroded people. As I have already stated, there are interested people who want to swamp Assam with people from outside, and it is they who make such irresponsible and certain utterances. I am quite sure, these people have not seen our revenue records and they have nothing to do with our revenue administration. It is, therefore, easy for them to say anything they like. If these interested people now say that we do not believe your records, we do not accept your statement, then, of course, there is no scope for talk with them. Assumptions made by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, is altogether fallacious. Sir, it is not possible for me, holding as I do the reins of administration of the Revenue Department of our State, to disbelieve the facts and figures adduced by the Department. I cannot hold the view expressed by those who say that there is enough culturable waste lands in Assam. Our records do not support that view. I have made that abundantly clear times without number on the floor of this House. Sir, if that assumption of Mr. Bhattacharyya falls to the ground as incorrect, then the whole

Resolution becomes infructuous. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, says—"settle the land with the encroachers", but when there is no land, what can be done ? The thing can be looked from another perspective. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has already scented the danger—he has anticipated the argument that may be put forward by the Government, and he says, "without any qualm of conscience, why give so much importance of law and order, why not consider the question of landlessness of the people and allow the encroachers to settle on the land ?" On this point I cannot agree with him, Sir. If the Resolution as drafted by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, is accepted, it will give a premium to those persons who have broken the established laws of the land. It will be dangerous thing. No Government can view this with equanimity. Suppose there is village where there are seven landless families and out of these seven families two families go and encroach on Government land, and if they are allowed to get the land, the other five families might naturally think that since the two families who have broken the law and forcibly occupied the land, have been given land by Government, let us also go and do the same thing. Can we allow this sort of thing, Sir ? Therefore if the Resolution as drafted by Shri Bhattacharyya is accepted, it will give a premium to lawlessness and nothing else. Now, Sir, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, says that the problem of landlessness should be treated as most urgent and it should be given the emphasis it needs. It is quite true, Sir. This problem is engaging the serious attention of the Government and this is why we are trying our best to find out land for the landless people. We have taken up some reclamation schemes in Philobari and other areas besides requisitioning tea garden lands. We do not mind for the cost of reclamation. We are anxious to provide our landless people with land at any cost. But it is dependent on the availability of the land and this cannot be done by allowing the people to break the law. No Government can encourage lawlessness. This problem should be tackled in a planned manner. We are giving serious thought to this problem. This is being thoroughly examined by the experts in this line. This problem of landlessness and consequent poverty in this State have arisen out of many things. Here the cultivation is still being done according to primitive method, then there is the unrestricted influx of people from outside the State and the unrestricted growth of population. So, from natural causes this problem cannot be solved without taking into consideration all these related

factors. We shall have to attack these contributing factors also in order to solve this vexed problem which cannot be done in an isolated way, far less in the way suggested by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. For some reasons or others, we have not yet been able to take up a big river valley scheme in our State as yet. When we take up such projects, we can provide some people with some land under such multi-purpose scheme. On the other hand we shall have to do some thing regarding the unrestricted influx of the people from outside the State and also provide employment to the people through cottage and large scale industries. Landless problem and problem of poverty should be tackled in a planned manner as stated above and this may bring some relief to our poor people. Shedding of crocodile tears will carry us nowhere. My Friend, Shri Umaruddin, has given some useful suggestions. He says, "Why not extend your reclamation activities in other districts also"? Sir, we are trying to find out and reclaim land wherever it is available and possible. It is quite true that this problem can be partially solved by such reclamation, but this cannot be solved properly in this way alone, in disregard of the other factors mentioned by me previously. Some of our people have got no land although we are trying our best to provide them with land wherever it is available, and this is due to their not availing of our offer as the land given are considered not suitable by them.

We wanted lands to be requisitioned in our State, to rehabilitate our flood-affected and eroded people. Sir, more than 10,000 families were eroded last year and the number of those who have been rehabilitated is not much, because the lands that have been requisitioned from the tea gardens for them are not quite good lands to attract the people. Although we have requisitioned some lands, people do not like to go to those lands because these lands are not cultivable and not only that even in some cases we have to derequisition some lands obtained from the Tea Estates, because those lands are not considered useful for our cultivators, and our cultivators, as a matter of fact, are also not used to such kind of land. But whenever land is available, we at once take up such lands for reclamation as in Kaki and Philobari. At present we have some lands in the sub-montane regions, but those lands are meant for our tribal brothers. If some of these lands are taken up and thrown open for cultivation without any plan or restriction, there will surely be a big flow of people in these areas. What will happen? Our tribal brothers—unsophisticated brothers—will thereby be thrown into

the hills ; the result will be disastrous to the tribals, whose protection is a sacred trust to the Government, and, therefore, in the interest of our tribal brothers we cannot take up those lands in the sub-montane regions and allow unrestricted flow of other people in these areas. Our tribal brothers, have been inhabiting in these sub-montane regions and we cannot drive them away from their regions; if we do so, the result will be disastrous. So, Sir, all these things also will have to be taken into consideration. Therefore, Sir, from all points of view, this matter will have to be looked into, and it will be found that it is not possible to allow those landless people who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas Lands to remain there. Sir, we cannot invite or encourage lawlessness in our State. For all these reasons Sir, I cannot accept the Resolution of my Friend, and I request him to see his way to withdraw it.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you withdraw it ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam should not evict those landless peasants who have encroached upon Government Reserves or Khas Lands without settling them with alternate and suitable land.

(The Resolution was negatived)

Announcement of the result of the All-India Archery Competition on the occasion of Republic Day in Delhi.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Chairman, I am glad to announce the result of the archery competition at the All-India Archery Competition on the last Republic Day in Delhi. Some of the competitors went to Delhi from the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District and won the prizes. The Siem of Khyrim State desires that these prizes should be distributed on the occasion of the Khyrim Festival Day, where a religious ceremony will be performed on the 23rd instant. The Siem of Khyrim State has chosen this day and taken the opportunity for distributing the prizes on this particular occasion. I hope all the hon. Members of the House have been invited to the festival. The Deputy Commissioner has been asked to provide four good buses so that the hon. Members may find it convenient to go to that area. In order to encourage the archers, I hope the

hon. Members will find it convenient to take an opportunity of visiting that place and also to encourage the archers in particular. The festival will start from about 1-30 P. M. The buses will be ready at the Members' Hostel at about 11 A. M. It will take about 30 or 40 minutes to reach that place from Shillong. It is better to reach there early so that the hon. Members may like to interest themselves in sight seeing also. I think that is better.

Private Members' Resolution *re* : introduction and regulation of compulsory physical drills in all educational institutions of the State.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that with a view to build up healthy physique amongst the students, the Government do take immediate steps to introduce and regulate compulsory physical drills in all educational institutions of the State.

(At this stage the Speaker left the Chamber and Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa, Chairman presided)

Sir, I am a very ambitious man, in fact we all are to see our children grow in all aspects. For this the first thing is health. শৰীৰম আদ্যম খলু ধৰ্ম্ম সাধণম।

Physical fitness is the foremost thing for the attainment of all happiness. We have heard of talking so many cultures but have seldom heard of physical culture in our State. When we were school boys we used to do drill and *kacharat* such as হনুমান দন, উজুদন, etc., and this too while under the British masters, but now that we are independent, we have lost sight of it altogether. This is indeed very sad while we are required to protect our home and hearth.

Children should be the first care of the State if it is worth the name. A nation who does not take care of their children will be guilty of remissness of their duty of the very first magnitude. Look at our children, you find a very sorry figure in contrast to the children of the soil of other independent countries. Therefore, Sir, we should take care of our children so that they may not curse us that they are neglected and uncared for. I consider that this is a responsibility of the State. Let not the sins of the fore-fathers and fathers visit their sons and grandsons. Let our children not say in independent India that they are neglected physically as was done in dependent India.

To conclude, Sir, I would request Government to see that this matter is implemented as soon as possible.

With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

The CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that with a view to build up healthy physique amongst the students, the Government do take immediate steps to introduce and regulate compulsory physical drills in all educational institutions of the State.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Chairman, I must thank the hon. Mover for having brought this Resolution before the House and given me an opportunity to explain the steps we have taken for furtherance of the object which he wants to achieve. We have to consider this question in all its aspects. The student population of the State are certainly the assets of the Nation and we cannot remain indifferent with regard to their health and we cannot be indifferent to taking measures so that they can build up good physique. The State Government as well as the Central Government have given consideration to this aspect of the matter. But I differ with the hon. Mover on one matter only. He proposes to achieve this object through physical drills only. At present we have only 4 Instructors and 2 Instructresses and we consider that this staff is inadequate. So, we have taken steps to establish an institute for physical culture so that we can turn out more teachers who can take up this programme of physical education in our schools. The question of health is closely associated with health education, that is imparting education regarding proper food, habits, observance of hygienic practices, etc., and we cannot be indifferent to this aspect of the question. In a recent meeting of the Central Council of Health which was held in South India a few months back a resolution was passed requesting the State Governments to this effect and a scheme has been submitted for the acceptance of the State Governments. The scheme envisages imparting health education to the students, catering of nutritious and balanced diet, besides establishing a Student Health Service.

Sir, I hope you will excuse me if I mention a personal experience. Whenever I happen to visit the schools I look at the health of the children. I look at their teeth, their eyes, their faces, their physique, etc. This is

a point on which we must give emphasis. In the proposed scheme this point is given due consideration. On one hand we have taken steps to establish an institute for physical culture so that we can turn out more teachers to train our stud nts for the improvement of physical health and for imparting health education, as I have already mentioned, and on the other hand we are examining the scheme for providing medical facilities for the students. As such I do not think it will be advisable for us to accept this Resolution as it is worded. Considering the fact that the Government has already taken steps in that direction, I request my Friend, the hon. Mover, not to press this Resolution, but to withdraw it.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: On hearing that Government has already taken steps in this direction, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Private Memebrs Resolution *re* : the construction of an embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh within the next financial year

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the urgent necessity of an embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh in Sissi Mauza, Dibrugarh North Bank in order to save the innocent poor cultivators from being devastated by the recurring floods, every year, this Assembly is of opinion that immediate action should be taken by Government to construct an Embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh within the next financial year.

Along with this, Sir, I beg to speak something about this area. This Chimenmukh is one of the most neglected areas and I think no Government officer or any public representative has ever visited this area and that is why when the States Reorganisation Commission came the people there submitted a representation to them requesting that while the State Government has not been taking any steps for the uplift of these people, their area should be amalgamated to North-East Frontier Agency. If those people are kept in this way then I think we cannot think of improving their lot. If the proposed embankment is constructed from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh then not only the people living their will be benefited but the people living on the border of the North-East Frontier Agency will also be benefited. So, Sir, I think this Resolution is very essential and the

Government will immediately take up the question of constructing an embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh, the cost of which will not be more than 2 to 3 lakhs.

With these words, Sir, I beg to commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The CHAIRMAN: The Resolution moved is that in view of the urgent necessity of an embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh in Sissi Mauza, Dibrugarh North Bank in order to save the innocent poor cultivators from being devastated by the recurring floods, every year, this Assembly is of opinion that immediate action should be taken by Government to construct an Embankment from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh within the next financial year.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত মালচন্দ্ৰ পেগুৰে, এই সদনত আজি যিটো মঠাউৰি বন্ধাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ ডাঙি ধৰিছে—সেইটোত মই সৰ্ব্বান্তঃকৰণেৰে সমৰ্থন জনাই কও যে, মোৰা মাচ মাহত, অৰ্থাৎ বিহুৰ আগত মই চিমন মুখ অঞ্চললৈ গৈছিলো। তাত গৈ দেখিলো যে, দিঘলে প্ৰায় ২৫ মাইল মান, বহলে প্ৰায় ১৫/২০ মাইল মান আয়তনৰ এটা অঞ্চল, মোৰা ভূমিকম্পই নষ্ট কৰি থৈছে আৰু সেই ঠাই ডোখৰত থকা গছ গছনিবিলাক গ্ৰাস কৰি তাৰ ঠাইত মাত্ৰ এতিয়া ইকৰা গজিছে। এই বিৰাট অঞ্চলটোত বহুতো মানুহৰ বসতি আছিল আৰু এতিয়া সেই মানুহবিলাক তাৰ ওচৰৰে এটা ঘৰত গৈ আশ্ৰয় লৈছে গৈ। এই মানুহ বিলাক মিৰি মানুহ আৰু এওঁলোকৰ সংখ্যা ২০০ ঘৰ। এই মানুহবিলাকৰ দুখ-দুৰ্দ্দশাৰ সীমা নোহোৱা হৈছে। তাৰো পৰি, এই অঞ্চলটোৰ ওচৰেদি এখন সৰু নদী বৈ গৈছে আৰু বান পানীৰ দিনত, ই দুয়োপাৰে বালি পেলাই খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি বিলাক নষ্ট কৰিছে। তাৰ পিচত চিমেন মুখৰ পৰা আহি বুঢ়িসুতি পোৱা যায়। এই বুঢ়িসুতিত থকা মানুহ বিলাকো একে কাৰনেই, ইফালে সিফালে আতৰি যাবলৈ বাধ্য হল আৰু সি বিলাকৰ অবস্থা অতিশয় শোক লগা। শ্ৰীযুক্ত পেগুৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ মতে দেউৰীঘাটৰ পৰা চীমেনমুখ, তাৰ পিচত বুঢ়িসুতিয়েদি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত লগাই দিব পাৰিলে বাইজৰ অশেষ উপকাৰ হয় আৰু এই কাৰ্য্য কৰা চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষে একান্ত কৰ্ত্তব্য। তাৰ পিচত তাত আৰু এখন সৰু নদী আছে তাৰ নাম টিলা নদী। এই খন নদী বান্ধি দিব পাৰিলে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বিঘা খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি উদ্ধাৰ কৰিব পৰা যায়। আশাকৰো এই বিষয়ে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে আৱশ্যকীয় কাম অতি সোনকালে হাতত লব।

তাৰ পিচত শ্ৰীযুত পেগুৰে কোৱা মতে—এই অতিকৈ পিচপৰা অঞ্চলটোলৈ চৰকাৰৰ কোনো কৰ্ম্মচাৰী কেতিয়াও যোৱা নাই এইটো একে বাৰে সঁচা কথা। যোৱাৰ ভিতৰত শ্ৰীযুত পেগু আৰু সি দিনা মই গৈ আহিলো।

এই বিষয়ে উপায়ুক্তক বহুবাৰ কোৱা হৈছে। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে এই বিষয়ে কোনো কান দিয়া দেখা নাই, আমি বহুবাৰ কৈছো যে এই বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব লাগে আৰু মঠাউৰি এটা বান্ধি দি মাটি খিনি ৰক্ষা কৰিব লাগে। তাকে কৰিলে ৩ বছৰৰ পিচত দেখিব তাত খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি ওলাব আৰু সেই ঠাই এৰিযোৱা মানুহবোৰ আনি পুনৰ বসতি কৰিব পাৰিব। চৰকাৰী বিষয়া সকলক এই কথা কলে কান নকৰে। তেওঁ লোকে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানী দেখিয়েই ভয় কৰে। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানী দেখিলে কোনো মানুহ

নেযায় আনকি ডেকা ডেকা বিষয়া সকলেও যাবলৈ ভয় কৰে। আমি বাইজ, চৰকাৰ আৰু চৰকাৰী বিষয়া সকলোৱে মিলি কাম কৰিব লাগিব উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে। গতিকে সেই বিলাক ঠাইলৈ অফিচাৰ সকল গৈ বাইজক উদগনি দি কাম কৰিলেহে দেশৰ উন্নতি হব আৰু তাকে দেখিলে আমিও সন্তোষ পাম।

(As this stage, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this scheme has already been surveyed and detailed plan and estimates are under preparation. This work will be taken up in the Second Five-Year Plan under the Flood Control Programme, provided it is approved by the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee and the State Development Committee. You know, Sir, this House constituted an Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee to select schemes in Assam. The Department may prepare plans and estimates for any schemes but unless they are approved by the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee and the Development Committee, it may not be possible for Government to include them in the Second Five-Year Plan. That is the position, Sir.

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত খাখলাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰী অফিসাৰ বিলাক গাৰলৈ নেযায় আৰু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানী দেখিলে ভয় কৰে। এই বিলাক বিশ্বাসযোগ্য কথা নহয়। এই পৰিকল্পনাৰ বিষয়ে যেতিয়া শ্ৰীযুত মালচন্দ্ৰ পেণ্ডৰে চৰকাৰক জনাইছিল, তেতিয়া ময়ে হুকুম দিছিলো যে এইটো এটা আৱশ্যকীয় পৰিকল্পনা। গতিকে তাৰ প্লেন আৰু এষ্টিমেট কৰিব লাগে। পৰিকল্পনাটো গ্ৰহণ কৰাটো অৱশ্যে উন্নয়ন বোৰ্ড আৰু পৰিকল্পনা আয়োগৰ ওপৰতহে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। এই সংক্ৰান্তত যিখন চিঠি আছে মই চিঠিখন পঢ়ি দিলেই তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰা বিষয়টো পৰিষ্কাৰ হব।

"I have the honour to submit that detailed survey for the proposed embankment along right side of Burisuit from Dewrighat to Chimenmukh, length 64,000 feet shown in dotted red and marked A B C on the Index Plan, has since been completed and detailed Plans and Estimates are under preparation. The alignment of proposed embankment was inspected by me personally on 16th March, 1955 and 17th March, 1955 with local villagers and I find that it is feasible upto Simenmukh, 64,000 feet, say 12 miles in length. The villagers pressed for further extension of embankment from A to A upto Lama Bor Gora, length about 3 miles, but since this portion of embankment will run more or less parallel to hills it is likely to be breached due to onrush of flood waters coming down from the hill, hence estimate is being prepared for 64,000 feet length of embankment from Dewrigaon to Simenmukh Gaon. As regards the rough cost of the project, length of embankment being 12 miles and taking all inclusive cost of Bund at Rs.62,000 feet per mile, it works out to Rs.7,44,000 or roughly Rs.8,00,000.

শ্রীযুত খাখলাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে চৰকাৰী বিষয়াবোৰ গাৱঁলৈ নেযায়, ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীলৈ ভয় কৰে আৰু গাৱঁলীয়া মানুহক লগ নধৰে। এইবোৰ বিশ্বাসযোগ্য কথা নহয়। ইয়াৰ প্লেন আৰু এষ্টিমেট ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰেই কৰি দিছে, আমাৰ অফিচাৰবোৰ গাৱঁলৈ যায় আৰু তাৰ মানুহকো লগ ধৰে। তেখেতে কোৱাৰদৰে তিনি মাইল দূৰৰে পৰা আগবঢ়াই নিব লগা কথাও নাজানো। তেখেতে আমাৰ অফিচাৰ সকলৰ বিপক্ষে বৰ বেয়া অভিযোগ কৰিছে। কোনো অভিযোগ থাকিলে চৰকাৰক জনালে সেইটো বিচাৰ কৰিব পৰা যায়। এনে অভিযোগ কৰিলে কাৰো কামকৰিবলৈ ভাল নেলাগে। মই নিজে বহুত সময়ত খোজ কাঢ়ি বান্ধ আৰু ৰাস্তাৰ কাম চাইছো আৰু অনেক সময়ত জীপ আৰু হাতীৰে গৈছো অফিচাৰ সকলেও কামলৈ নোযোৱা নহয়। ইয়াৰ আগত মই E.E. (E & D) ৰ পৰা দিয়া চিঠিখনেই সাক্ষী।

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: দ্বিতীয় পাঁচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত ধৰাহলে ভাল আছিল।

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): ইয়াত ৮ লাখমান টকা লাগিব আৰু পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত লৰলৈ বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হব।

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House.withdrawn.)

Private Members Resolution to appoint a Committee to examine the present syllabus of study in Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools including Basic Schools and to make the necessary revision of the present syllabus.

* **Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in order to meet the present day requirements, this Assembly is of opinion that Gevernment do appoint a committee to examine the present syllabus of study in Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools including Basic Schools, and to suggest an up-to-date syllabus of study with necessary revision of the existing syllabus.

You know, Sir, when our country was dependent, the importance of education was different, the policy of education was different and hence the syllabus also was different. After independence, we are remodelling our educational system and we will have to make revolutionary changes in

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*Speech not corrected.

the syllabus of study. Of course, after Independence some minor changes have been done in syllabus, but that is not enough. We should change it according to the needs of the country, the needs of the society and also the needs of educational experts. Previously, when we were dependent, much stress was given on parrot knowledge and the ideal was also different. The educational system at that time was mainly for creating more clerks and officers to run the bureaucratic system of Government. But after Independence, now we will have to build a new citizenship, we will have to create new leadership and we will have to enthuse the children to adapt to the new conditions. We remember to have been given the idea when we were studying in primary stage that if we read well we will have a Bhadralog, we will be able to wear shoes and trousers and we will be able to have a motor car but that ideology has changed now. We will have to change our society. After passing out of school if a student becomes a cultivator, it is not dishonourable now but at that time we used to hate manual labour and it was a proud privilege to become a clerk or a Sub-Deputy Collector. Now, whether he be a labourer or an officer, every one has got the same status in society. So in order to get our students trained in the idea of a classless society, we should revise our text books, we should find out suitable books for a 5 years child and different categories of students. If we give text books which one cannot acquire or achieve the object, that is harmful. So, all these things should be studied and the syllabus should be changed. We have to see how much arithmetic or geography is required for different classes. All these things should be taken into account. For instance, we want a child to know his village, his district and his State, then he must have some of the primary duties towards society, and all these should be included in his syllabus. We sometimes find that he is given such a subject which is not necessary to him for that particular age. When we select the syllabus we have to see whether our students should study the history of our State and Republic. When we were students we were taught the history of England more and we used to know the names of heroes of England more but now we will have to study our own heroes, similarly, history of Assam. When we study in Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools, we should learn history of our district and our State and in higher studies we should learn to have broader outlook of the world history.

For all these reasons, my suggestion is that a Commitee should be appointed because it requires a good deal of study and they will suggest the necessary subjects to be introduced so that our syllabus is in conformity with the present day needs and requirements of our schools and colleges.

With these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Resolution moved is that in order to meet the present day requirements, this Assembly is of opinion that Government do appoint a committee to examine the present syllabus of study in Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools including Basic Schools, and to suggest an up-to-date syllabus of study with necessary revision of the existing syllabus.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole heartedly support this Resolution moved by my Friend, Sriman Prafulla Goswami.

I think, this is the most timely Resolution he has brought to the attention of the educational authorities. I do believe that the solid foundation of education must be considered as the first thing to be attended to by any modern society. I am sure, the educational authorities have also felt, that after attainment of freedom, the whole educational system should be changed. That is the opinion of the country, educationists, laymen and Government as well. The reason being that the education system that was obtaining before we attained freedom, was only to serve, rather to pander to the wishes of the alien Government. Therefore, after attainment of freedom, if we continue in that same rut, our future generations will be brought up with the same ideologies that flooded the mentality of servile people who are only brought up to serve other nations. Therefore, when such an important question is looming large before our eyes, we must immediately, as far as possible, change our educational system. We have recently introduced Basic Education and the Government from the Centre downwards are seriously thinking how to change radically the educational policy of the country to suit the needs of free India. At such a moment, I do not think, it will be possible to change the whole atmosphere with one stroke of pen ; I do realise that. But, at the same time, I feel that if at this moment after

seven years of attainment of freedom, we are not taking b steps to change the education policy of our country, wh will it be so ? Of course, our educationists have given so thought as to what should be the aim of our educati but that is not enough. We have introduced Basic Ed cation and along with that we have our old system Primary Education, and we have the bureaucratic ideas our Secondary Education still, and we are moving in the sa old rut.

Similarly in our higher education, in our college ed cation we are thinking of bringing about as many qualifi graduates as possible and possibly we have increased manif the number of graduates but to what national end th graduates have been brought in, we have no clear idea that as yet. Therefore, it is a timely Resolution where can at least have some clear notion as to how to br about our little children with such education and with su bias towards national ends that will satisfy their educatio needs to some extent and prepare their minds towards th end. Therefore, to suggest a change of the syllabus some extent is not demanding too much. When we fe that our education, even from infancy—if we really unde stood the meaning of Basic Education—is to make educati practical—practical I mean in this sense, that a youngma after receiving a certain education, must be able to ear his livelihood, to expand his heart, and also improve h intellectual powers. These three stages I must say practical. So I believe, nay, it is the firm conviction my mind though I am not an educationist nor an expe but my common sense definitely tells me that the time fast approaching when we shall not have lots of differe kinds of education in a very complex way, we must simpli our education in three ways. Our Primary Education wi be a complete education in itself to enable a youngman 14 to 16 years of age to eke out his livelihood to impro his mind and also his heart. So, that stage of educati must be in itself a complete education to fit in a youngma in a society and to enable him to earn his living and li as a social being and will contribute towards national wealth Therefore, when that will be our objective, our youngme after 14 to 16 years they will get Primary Education whic will be like that.

Then there will be a secondary stage when a youn man will get a little bit of higher education which wi entitle him to get the administrative works and other work

that will be demanded of such youngmen in a progressive way. Then there is the third stage—the post-graduate stage—when these youngmen will contribute by their research work to the national wealth of mind, wealth of heart and material wealth. These are the three types of education which we shall have to give to our youngmen if we really want to build up a socialistic State, that is, a society where every individual will have an assured place and from that place he will have to contribute his mite for the benefit of the whole society, and as such we must think to change our present syllabus immediately and urgently. The syllabus which we are following, with which we crammed our youngsters, will not meet this objective. Therefore, the sooner it is changed to the end of this objective, the better for us. Therefore, I would request the Government and specially our educational authorities to give full attention to this question to make the syllabus from now in such a way that it will ultimately give that kind of education which is our objective as said before.

So, I wholeheartedly support this Resolution moved by my Friend and I am sure it will be acceptable to Government to the extent that it will only help their idea of bringing a radical change in the educational field.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must thank the Mover, Sriman Prafulla Goswami, for having brought this Resolution before the House. Sir, the question has been pending before the Department and the Resolution is very timely. Sir, the House is aware that it agreed to pass the Basic Education Bill last year. This Bill, Sir, envisages amalgamation of Basic Education with primary education and gradual conversion of all Primary Schools into Basic. As such, the question has already been taken up by the Department for changing of the syllabus and curriculum.

In this connection, Sir, my Friend, Shri Nilmani Phookan, has raised some points which are not connected with this Resolution. Of course they are connected with the broad question of educational reform. This Resolution confines itself only to basic education, amalgamation of Primary Schools, Middle Vernacular Schools and Basic Schools. As such, I do not propose to take up those points raised by my Friend, Mr. Phookan. He mentioned that the Department is still continuing the old Primary Schools and the old Secondary

Schools without making any radical changes in the syllabus. In this connection, I must inform the House that we cannot immediately bring about any radical change because of paucity of trained teachers. We have taken up a programme of training schools for this purpose and we are taking steps for gradual conversion of Primary Schools into Basic. There is another Resolution which is to be moved by Sriman Prafulla Goswami and that Resolution stands as No.54 in which he also mentions about the syllabus with regard to Secondary Schools. So I do not propose to take up the points relating to syllabus for Secondary Education raised by my Friend, Mr Phookan, at this stage. However, as I have already stated that the Department has already taken up the question of instituting a Committee for going into the whole question of preparation of the syllabus and curriculum, as such I have no objection to accept the Resolution moved by my Friend Sriman Goswami.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that in order to meet the present day requirements, this Assembly is of opinion that Government do appoint a committee to examine the present syllabus of study in Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools including Basic Schools, and to suggest an up-to-date syllabus of study with necessary revision of the existing syllabus.

(The Resolution was adopted)

Private Members' Resolution to attach a meter of fares to each of the taxi cabs plying on the roads for hire and also direct the relevant authorities to test such meters at regular intervals

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that with a view to stop illegal extortion of the taxi-cab drivers at Shillong and Gauhati as taxi fares, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to direct the relevant authorities to compel the drivers of such vehicles to attach a meter of fares to each of the taxi-cabs plying on the roads for hire and also direct the relevant authorities to test such meters at regular intervals to find out if the meters are working and the fares shown in the meters are uniform subject to the maximum fixed by the Government.

Sir, this Resolution is clear enough and it does not require much comments. I, however, think I should better give a few instances to show how all these things happen. Sir, as I have no car of my own, I use taxis on hire, and in most cases I find the fares charged by the taxi drivers are most unreasonable. During the last Budget Session while I was at Shillong, I had occasions to use taxis on hire. But on every occasion I found them charging exorbitant fares. These taxis have meters which are simply decorations attached to the cars but these meters are either not functioning at all or they are not giving correct readings. I then took up the case with the relevant authorities and wrote a letter. After sometime a reply was sent to me stating that they were taking some steps. But when I came next time to Shillong, I found the same things were going on as before and the drivers were demanding fares at he same old exorbitant rates. Now coming to Gauhati also, I find there are no meters in the taxis. There seems to have no fixed rates there for taxis. The drivers try to charge as much as they can from different passengers. Once I took up the matter with the authority, but unfortunately no reply has been sent till date. Then again on the other day when I was coming to attend this Session of the Assembly on the 19th of June last, I had to use a taxi, No. ASK-1531. The driver demanded Rs.8 from Pandu to Gauhati. Then I wanted to see if he had got a table of fares. The driver refused to show me the same and told me that if I wanted to see the fare table, I should better go to the R. T. A. office and see the fares there.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: How much fare you paid to the driver ?

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: I had to pay the fare he demanded, *i. e.*, Rs.8 from Pandu to Gauhati. Sir, this is not the only occasion that I had to pay exorbitant fares. On many other occasions also, as I have stated before, I had to pay most unreasonable fare at the behest of these reckless and unreasonable drivers. Nor am I the only person who has suffered from this. I have heard from my other friends also how they had to pay most exorbitant fares to these drivers. It is very surprising, Sir, even in Shillong, the capital of Assam, there is none to see whether the meters fixed to the taxis are at all functioning. There is nobody to supervise how the taxi drivers are behaving with the public, whether the Motor Vehicles Rules

are at all followed. But, Sir, in a very big city like Calcutta, things are quite different. There the meters which function very accurately. The Department in charge of looking after these things, *i. e.*, the Police Department keeps a vigilant watch over this matter. Vehicles are regularly tested, and as a result of these regular checks and inspections, taxi-cabs give a very satisfactory service to the people. But here, Sir, the picture is quite different. This matter seems to have gone quite unnoticed by the Government. The purpose of my tabling this Motion is to bring to the notice of the Government this most unsatisfactory state of affairs. The purpose may seem very petty. But the subject matters should be viewed from its proper perspective. Existence of corruption in any walk of life should be removed and I hope the Government will give due attention to the removal of this corrupt practice which goes unnoticed under the very nose of the authorities.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that with a view to stop illegal extortion of the taxi-cab drivers at Shillong and Gauhati as taxi fares, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to direct the relevant authorities to compel the drivers of such vehicles to attach a meter of fares to each of the taxi-cabs plying on the roads for hire and also direct the relevant authorities to test such meters at regular interval to find out if the meters are working and the fares shown in the meters are uniform subject to the maximum fixed by the Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am, indeed, thankful to Raja Ajit Narayan Deb for tabling this important Resolution before the House. Like him I have myself been also a victim of extortion of unreasonable fares by taxi drivers on several occasions. It is really surprising that in spite of there being a regularly established Department to look after enforcement of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, this corrupt practice of illegal extortion of unreasonable fares has been going on undetected and uncontrolled. Now, Sir, apart from the fact that quite a number of taxis plying between Gauhati and Pandu realise most unreasonable fares from the passengers taking advantage of their helplessness, they do something more atrocious and condemnable. I have seen on several occasions some of the taxi-drivers pack their vehicles with not less then 10 to 12 passengers and in this way in one

trip they realise five to six rupees at the rate of annas eight per passenger. I myself felt like reporting this matter to the Government, but I blame myself that I have not been able to do so already. Now my Friend, Rajaji, by bringing this matter before the House, I feel, has done really a commendable service to the affected people for which he really deserves our thanks. Now, Sir, quite a number of buses also run between Pandu and Gauhati. It passes my comprehension as to how the taxis can compete with the buses. While a bus can carry about 25 to 30 passengers, permissible capacity of a taxi is only 5 excluding the driver and the handyman. But the passengers they carry far exceed this number. Now there is a Police outpost near the gate at Bharalumukh besides Police points in various important road junctions. These Police people on duty are never seen raising their little fingers to question these over-greedy taxi drivers, nor do they report such cases of excessive over-loadings. This has made me to suspect that there is some sort of alliance between the drivers and the Police. Otherwise how these illegal acts of overloading can be carried on by these taxi-drivers under their very nose in the broad day light, days in and days out ? Government seems to have not taken any action to put a stop to this illegal activity. Of course at Gauhati there are no meters in the taxis. I do not know whether or not there is any condition in their permits for introduction of meters in the taxis. If there is none, I think it is high time that such a clause should be incorporated as early as possible. Taking advantage of the absence of any meter, many of the taxi drivers charge their passengers at their sweet will, and many honourable and respectable gentlemen have got to pay anything demanded by the drivers with a view to avoid any unbecoming scene and to save their prestige. But there are others who create troubles. Sometimes serious quarrels ensue between the drivers and the passengers. Such scenes, such quarrels undoubtedly reflect very badly on administration. Then again at times I find meters fixed up on the taxis are either defunct or do not function at all or even though they function, they do not give correct readings or register accurate fares. Regular and periodic checkings are necessary to do away with such anomalies. I therefore think, Sir, it is of utmost necessity that some positive and effective steps should be taken to put a stop to all these illegal activities of the drivers and to punish them in a deterrent manner so that they may not feel encouraged to indulge in such practices any longer. At he same time I also think that the fare rates should also

be carefully examined and necessary revisions made where they are found too low or insufficient enough to leave a reasonable margin of profit to the taxi owners.

Apart from the anomalies about fares, condition of some of the vehicles is very bad and in fact some are all ramshackle. The other day I engaged a taxi from the Shillong Motor Station to convey me to the Pinewood Hotel. The condition of the engine of the taxi was so bad that it broke down on the way and I had to engage another taxi. So this sort of thing cannot be allowed. I do not know exactly if the number of taxis is more than what it should have been and as such the income of the taxi owners are not adequate and so they want to extract more fare from the passengers. That is a different matter, but for that reason the passengers should not be exploited. Here I suggest Government should take steps to introduce the Baby Taxis with 10 H. P. in Shillong as in Calcutta and in Delhi. Any person who wishes to engage such a taxi can do so at a lesser cost. Those who want to engage bigger taxis, may do so according to their convenience and requirements. But there should be provision for Baby Taxis. So if the suggestions given by us are adopted, I hope it will go a long way in eliminating corruption prevailing amongst the taxi owners and drivers. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Raja Ajit Narayan Dev.

Adjournment

(The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 P. M. for lunch.)

(*After lunch*)

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Resolution brought forward by the hon. Member is an important one. Sir, the taxi drivers in Shillong charge enormous amount specially from people coming from the plains, when the Assembly is in Session. They charge such high fares without any rhyme and reason. Sir, even to go from the M. L. As'. Hostels to the residence of Finance Minister they charge Rs.5 to Rs.10, and if that amount is not paid, then they will begin to quarrel. Under the circumstances whatever the Shillong taxi drivers demand we have to pay, there being no other alternative. In this connection, Sir, I like to inform the House that similar things are going on in Jorhat and other towns in the State. The taxi drivers charge unreasonable fares from their customers. So, I hope

the Government will take proper steps to see that these taxi drivers do not charge fares from the people without any rhyme and reason.

With these few words, I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Member.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government are not unaware of the offences committed under the Motor Vehicles Act, but it is rather difficult to control the taxi drivers without the co-operation of the public and also the Members of this House. Sir, Meter system has already been introduced in Shillong. There is a proposal to introduce taxi meter at Gauhati also and in other towns of the State. Sir, the present difficulty is that when the taxi meter goes out of order, it cannot be repaired either in Shillong or Gauhati. The meters have got to be repaired in Calcutta when they go out of order. So, Sir, it has been decided tentatively to make arrangements to repair the taxi meters in Shillong and at Gauhati workshops. But this will certainly require sometime, because to purchase the necessary machineries as well as to appoint trained men or trained personnels to repair the meters will also require time. Sir, regarding the complaint about harassment made by the taxi driver at Pandu to the hon. Mover of the Resolution, I am not aware of it, I shall look into the matter, and take necessary steps, if the hon. Mover of the Resolution furnishes me with the number of the taxi and he sends a copy of the complaint letter.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: The No. of the taxi is ASK. 1531.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, with regard to the question of over-loading, it is difficult to check over-loading where there is no police point. Ordinarily drivers of stage carriages pick up passengers from road side; so when there is no police point or check post, it is very difficult to check over-loading. Sir, in this connection, I referred the matter to the Inspector General of Police and he intimated me that it would not be possible to check the over-loading at places where there is no police point or police checks.

(*Voices*—What about Bharalumukh ?)

I am coming to that. There is a police point and vehicles are checked there. I shall give some figures in support of my

contention. To check over-loading the Government have sanctioned an Enforcement Branch and 8 motor cycles also have been sanctioned. The staff are being appointed on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission. Sir, I understand the Public Service Commission has interviewed the candidates yesterday at Gauhati. So, Sir, as soon as the Enforcement Branch comes into force, I hope the matter will be improved to some extent. The allegation that there is no check is not correct. I have got some figures, which will clarify the position. These figures will convince the hon. Members. At Shillong in the quarter ending 30th September, 1954 Police detected 145 cases excluding the Department actions, and all these cases ended in conviction. Mobile Courts are set up occasionally. On two occasions, on 6th February, 1955 the Mobile Court realised Rs.545 as fine under Motor Vehicles Act and the Mobile Courts on the 13th February 1955 realised an amount of Rs. 827 for offences committed under the Motor Vehicles Act. In Goalpara-Gauhati Road—490 cases were detected by Police last year. Out of this 490 cases, as many as 450 cases are for over-loading, and out of this 450, 210 cases ended in conviction. 186 cases were pending, 9 were acquitted and the rest were disposed of otherwise. In view of this, I cannot say that there were no checks, no detections by Police or no cases were instituted or the Police did not give co-operation in the detection of offences committed under the Motor Vehicles Act. I have not got the figures for other places just at the moment, but I can give them if the hon. Member wants them. These Mobile Courts are set up in Jorhat and many cases have been detected there also.

As regards the time-table and fare-table, these were published in the *Assam Gazette* on 4th January, 1955 for Shillong. According to the rule, the taxi drivers are to keep with them the fare-table that has been enforced in Shillong, but in Gauhati, I understand, that has not been enforced on taxis. I have asked them to enforce this in all the towns in Assam.

There is also a proposal for introducing baby taxis. I understand the Regional Transport Authority, Gauhati, have called for tenders, but there is dearth of applicants. I understand only one permit has been given for a baby taxi in Gauhati. Both at Shillong and Gauhati there is dearth of applicants for baby taxis, because they think it will not be a profitable concern. If, therefore, my Friends can induce anyone to have a permit, I am prepared to give permits for baby taxis. In fact I am told there are vacancies for permits for baby taxis both at Gauhati and Shillong. Without full co-operation from the hon. Members of the

House and from the travelling public, it is difficult to exercise proper control over these vehicles. The driver commits these offences in places where there are no police check. If the hon. Members find any difficulty or the passengers find any difficulty or inconvenience and report to the Transport Department or to me, I shall certainly look into the matter and take steps against the offenders. Already steps have been taken everywhere as far as possible to reduce the number of offences under the Motor Vehicles Act committed by the drivers and others.

I think I have replied to the points raised by my Friends, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb and Shri Pegu. So, I request the Mover of the Resolution to withdraw it.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : What is the rate charged by the taxi drivers at Jorhat and Dibrugarh?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : I shall ask for that. If the hon.Member wants, it will be supplied to him.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli : I want one clarification. Will the Hon'ble Minister give me an assurance that he will compel all taxis at Gauhati to have a table of fares?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : That will be done.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli : My experience is when you ask for the fare-table, the driver will say—you can have it in the motor office.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : I made an enquiry : that was not enforced at Gauhati, this was enforced by the Regional Transport Authority only at Shillong. So, I have asked to enforce this everywhere. As soon as this is enforced, they will be compelled to keep the time-table and fare-table with them, otherwise they will be prosecuted and punished under the Motor Vehicles Act.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli : Is it going to be enforced ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : I have already asked the Secretary, Transport, to intimate the Secretary, Regional Transport Authorities, to enforce this in all the towns in Assam.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

Private Member's Resolution *re*: the idea of starting subsidised dispensaries in the Tribal Areas (Plains) to be abandoned and in lieu of it State dispensaries to be started in these areas

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: In view of the fact that the poor Plains Tribal people of the State cannot afford to construct the dispensary buildings and to find out qualified doctors for the subsidised dispensaries opened in their localities, this Assembly is of opinion that the idea of starting subsidised dispensaries in the Tribal areas (Plains) should be abandoned and in lieu of it State dispensaries should be started in these areas.

I think, the Resolution as drafted does not require further elucidation. Our National Government has been trying their level best to uplift the Tribal people, but the way in which they are going to be uplifted is not quite satisfactory. Now the Plains Tribal people have been given subsidised dispensaries only in name. These are actually not functioning. Therefore, I think it is no good giving any subsidised dispensaries to these areas. Instead of that, if they do not actually function, I think, the best way is to start State dispensaries in these backward areas. With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution moved is that in view of the fact that the poor Plains Tribal people of the State cannot afford to construct the dispensary buildings and to find out qualified doctors for the subsidised dispensaries opened in their localities, this Assembly is of opinion that the idea of starting subsidised dispensaries in the Tribal areas (Plains) should be abandoned and in lieu of it State dispensaries should be started in these areas.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mover of the Resolution, Shri Pegu, wants that in place of the subsidised dispensaries, State dispensaries should be opened particularly in the backward Plains Tribal areas.

Sir, as regards the opening of subsidised dispensaries in different places, we have laid down certain conditions for opening those dispensaries. One of the conditions is that people are to provide houses for a dispensary and the doctor's quarters. My Friend, Mr. Pegu's point is that in the Tribal areas it is not possible for the poor tribal people to provide these houses.

I quite appreciate his argument, Sir, that it is not possible in the Tribal areas to provide buildings for dispensaries and doctors' quarters by the people themselves. As I have stated this morning during the discussion on a Resolution moved by my Friend, Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed, that under the Second Five-Year Plan we have decided to convert all the existing dispensaries, including the Local Board and subsidised dispensaries into State dispensaries and under this Second Five-Year Plan all the new dispensaries that we shall be opening will be State dispensaries. I think this will meet the point raised by my Friend, Mr. Pegu, and I hope in view of what I have stated he will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: On the assurance given by the Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).

Private Member's Resolution re: establishment of polytechnique institutes of small cottage industries in each district and subdivision for training the educated unemployed in different arts and crafts

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that with a view to solve partially the problem of growing educated unemployment in the State, Government do take immediate steps to establish polytechnique institutes of small cottage industries in each District and Subdivision for training the educated unemployed in different arts and crafts and for giving them necessary help, facilities and guidance in establishing their respective industries thereafter.

Sir, in this respect I beg to draw the attention of the House that as each person has his own problems, so also each State of India has some problems and the major problem is unemployment. In this connection the President of the All-India Congress, Shri U. N. Dhebar, says: "We shall have to train our workers for the great job. We have a great stake —the fulfilment of our pledge to provide employment and fuller employment to every citizen in the country within ten years or failure to fulfil it." This is a very important statement made by him. Sir, the State Governments as well as the Central Government have given many facilities to the people of India to go ahead for the advancement of the country, but the facilities so far given to them are not much and therefore I have brought this Resolution. The State Government should provide polytechnique institutes of small cottage industries in each District and Subdivision so that our students after coming out from such institute can go to their villages to occupy themselves in some kind of avocations—either in small industries or in cottage industries. Therefore, Sir, I hope the Government will give serious attention to this problem of unemployment and under-employment so that our youngmen after leaving their schools or colleges can find some means of occupation, more particularly at this stage when our youngmen are seriously thinking of their future livelihood.

Therefore, Sir, I suggest through this Resolution that the State Government should give serious consideration to this problem and provide polytechnique institutes in each District and Subdivision to tackle the problem.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that with a view to solve partially the problem of growing educated unemployment in the State, Government do take immediate steps to establish polytechnique institutes of small cottage industries in each District and Subdivision for training the educated unemployed in different arts and crafts and for giving them necessary help, facilities and guidance in establishing their respective industries thereafter.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Gogoi.

Rightly he has given great stress on the problem of unemployment which is growing day by day. We have discussed this problem of unemployment particularly in the towns. The number of unemployed younger section of our people is going up after every University examination. In the villages also if this problem is not so acute now in our State of Assam but it will be acute in the near future. In the villages the problem is that a big number of people is under-employed and so the Government should do something by which a big section of the people can be employed and made good citizens of the State. A minute ago in the House in reply to a Resolution the Finance and Revenue Minister has stated that there is not enough land in Assam where all people can be employed. If that is so, then other avenues must be found out by starting some industries. We have heard of big industries since Independence, that is, from the year 1947. During this long period after Independence not a single large industry could be started in our State. We are very much pessimistic about opening of large industries in the State of Assam. So, the only course that is left to tackle this unemployment problem is by small scale industries. My Friend, Mr. Gogoi, has rightly given stress on the establishment of polytechnique institutes in each District and Subdivision town to train our younger people so that they can take up some form of professional training for their future livelihood. Now, Sir, hundreds and thousands of our students come out from high schools and colleges and if a large section of them could have some kind of technical education from the polytechnique institutes side by side and if Government could give help for starting some kinds of small scale industries in different parts of the State, I think this problem of unemployment could have been solved more effectively. Unfortunately Government has not done anything in this direction. In the last Budget Session in the course of discussion I explained with facts and figures that during the first 4 years of the First Five-Year Plan Government could not spend a single penny so far as cottage industries and small scale industries are concerned and curiously enough out of 42 lakhs of rupees which was sanctioned by the Government of India for the development of electricity to help the growth of cottage and other small scale industries for giving employment to the unemployed class of people, Government could not spend any amount. Considering all this I must say that in this direction of solving unemployment problem Government is not doing anything. Now it is right time that we should seriously

think over the matter and accept the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Gogoi, because it is a very important Resolution.

On one side, it initiates that some polytechnique institutions of a small nature should be started in every subdivision and district headquarters to give our younger section vocational training so that they may earn their livelihood. On another side, it has urged on the Government to help these people to make the small-scale industries thrive—the industries which were started long time ago but cannot thrive and also starting new ones.

With these few words, I whole-heartedly support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Gogoi.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, for moving this Resolution and thus giving me an opportunity to explain the steps taken by Government in this matter. I am sorry, I am not prepared to accept the statement made by Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das. It seems he does not care to know things. He said that nothing has been done up till now by Government and not a single penny has been spent. Sir, we have been giving thousands and thousands of rupees as loans to individuals and societies. I do not know whether he knows that we have already started a Training Institute at Gauhati. We have not got an independent house till now—the buildings are under construction. The classes are held in the Weaving School at Gauhati and training is imparted in diferent trades and crafts, like blacksmithy, carpentry, leather works, etc. I don't know how my Friend can say that Government have not done anything.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: On a point of information, Sir, what is the total expenditure during the first three years of the First Five-Year Plan period so far as cottage industries are concerned ? I have got it from a pamphlet that the expenditure is nil.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): I cannot say off-hand.

Then, Sir, besides this institute at Gauhati a scheme has already been sanctioned for starting similar training institutes in Cachar and Darrang Community Project areas. (*At this stage, Mr. Speaker occupied the Chair*). Then we are giving subsidies to some other training centres in different areas. Now, Sir, our main difficulty is that we do not get trained personnel to give training in the institutes. In the Second Five-Year Plan we have prepared a very exhaustive scheme. According to that scheme, which has been

adopted by the Development Committee, in every subdivision there will be a training-*cum*-production centre. In the whole of the State there will be as many as four Central Training Institutes impartcng higher training. It has been calculated that if we can implement the scheme we shall be in a position to train as many as 7,700 persons within the Second Five-Year Plan period. We shall also give subsidy to the trainees, after completion of the training, to go to different areas and start different business centres. So, Sir, from what I have stated it is evident that we are going to start Training Institutes, which has been wanted by my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, in his Resolution. There is, therefore, no necessity to press for the Resolution and I request him to see his way to withdraw it.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: The Hon'ble Minister said that for want of technical personnel these institutions could not be started. May I know where will he get technical personnel to implement his scheme in the Second Five-Year Plan period ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): As I said, we have already started a training institute at Gauhati and there is a proposal to upgrade it. Besides that we are going to have two more training centres in Cachar and Darrang Community Project areas. From these institutes trained personnel will becoming out.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Private Member's Resolution *re*: **making the North Trunk Road a National Highway.**

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the State Government do move the Union Government to immediately make the North Trunk Road a National Highway.

I do not think, Sir, there is any necessity for an elaborate explanation of my Resolution because this is a subject which has been agitated both on the floor of this House and also outside for several years past. This subject

is also not one in which only one particular party or parties are interested. This is a subject where all parties and all people are equally interested.

Now, the purpose of my bringing this Resolution at this juncture is to underline and emphasise the urgency of the matter at this moment when the Second Five-Year Plan is being discussed and finalised. So far as our State is concerned, we have to place before the Union Government our proposals in order of priority. So far as the North Trunk Road is concerned, those who come from the north bank of the Brahmaputra know that this is in a very deplorable condition. I have personally seen that during the rainy season the road from Chariali off North Gauhati to Tezpur becomes precarious. The road in between Puthimari and Borolia River becomes submerged in water several times during the rainy season, so also the area between the river Pagladia and Borolia. The road from Tezpur to North Lakhimpur becomes all the worse. In other words, we see that the major part of the districts of Goalpara and Kamrup, the whole of the district of Darrang and the whole of North Lakhimpur suffer due to this precarious trunk road.

Now it is known by everybody that until and unless there be a good highway, the feeder roads also do not and cannot develop and we find that comparatively the northern side of the Brahmaputra River is much less developed in point of roads than the southern side. So long as the agricultural north and industrial south of Assam are not equally developed, it will not be a balance development of the State and there will not be a balanced economy. Moreover, in order to develop and encourage cottage and small industries in the rural and semi-urban areas of these districts in north bank of the Brahmaputra, there should be proper facilities for transport. Until and unless the North Trunk Road is improved there will not be proper transport facilities to the people.

Apart from the interest of Assam there is also broader interest for the development of this road as a National Highway. It may be stated as has been suggested in one of the Resolutions meant for discussion by us, that this should be made a State Highway instead of a National Highway. With due respect to the Member who has brought that Resolution, I want to state that he feels only from the State point of view but there is a greater point of view which is national point of view. Ours is a Frontier State. It does not of course mean that is surrounded by hostile States. But even though our neighbours are very friendly, rather because our neighbours are friendly, we should have closer links with

them. So far as our State is concerned, on the northern side we have got friendly States of Bhutan and Tibet and on the north-east we are in the easy approach of China with which friendly and cordial relations are developing and still closer relations and trade relations should develop. We know that from time immemorial there has been trade between Bhutanese and Assamese people at Daranga mela. Formerly it used to be held at Dewangiri, a few miles away from Daranga. I hope the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department will bear me out that this trade centre was very prosperous at one time and has now deteriorated because Bhutan people have got better facilities in their western and northern frontiers while the potentialities on our side have not been fully developed. There are also trade centres at Bhalukpoong and Udalguri and if North Trunk Road is developed, Bhalukpoong and Udalguri will be developed and there will be good trade relations with our northern neighbours. If the road is developed upto North-Lakhimpur then we will see that there will be trade routes to Tibet *via* North-Lakhimpur. It will also help us to exploit the mineral resources and other untapped resources of the North-East Frontier area. We have learnt from geologists that there are enough of mineral resources in those parts but until and unless these are explored and harnessed for the service of the country, these will lie useless. If these can be explored and properly utilised, not only the Second Five-Year Plan but many other plans will be greatly benefited. So, it is in the interest not only of the people of Assam but in the broader interest of the people of India as well that this North Trunk Road should be developed into a National Highway.

Sir, so far as Assam Government is concerned, it is reported that there is a proposal to the Central Government that the road should be included in the Second Five-Year Plan. My request to the Government will be that the Government should press the Union Government to give top priority to this road because this road will not be an end in itself. It will lead to further and far reaching development. I hope, therefore, the entire House will agree with me that the State Government should move the Union Government to give top priority or rather it should be taken up immediately without waiting for a year or so.

With these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that the State Government do move the Union Government to immediately make the North Trunk Road a National Highway.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the whole House will agree to this Resolution or not, so far as I am concerned, I am fully in agreement with the hon. Mover of the Resolution, that the Union Government should be requested to take up this North Trunk Road as a National Highway. The Road Communication Board decided that this road should be taken up in State level and not district level, but we should press the Union Government to accept it as a National Highway immediately.

Sir, I had the fortune or rather the misfortune to travel by this road as a member of the Panchayat Committee. It was strange to find that this road was left in such a bad condition by the State Government that by now during this rainy part of the year it might turn into a veritable quagmire. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to support this Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall place before this House, the steps that have been already taken by the Government for classifying the North Trunk Road as a National Highway by the Government of India. The Government of India were approached on the recommendation of the Road Communication Board held on 4th June, 1946 as far back as 1946. A Resolution was moved by Shri O.K. Das, the then Member, Legislative Assembly, and now Minister-in-charge of Education, *vide* our letter No.PWR-P/38/45/6513, dated 3rd August 1946, for its inclusion in the National Highway system of India. The Government of India in their reply No. PL-13(73) dated 9th October 1946, furnished certain figures to show that Assam was comparatively better served in respect of National Highways than an average Governor's Province and turned down the proposal. This refers to letter No. PL-13(73), dated 9th October 1946. I read the relevant extract of the letter.

"The Government of India consider that the fact that the road has several links with other National Highways is an argument more in favour of its classification being retained at Provincial Highway level. That the road would open up vast areas and improve the condition of the agriculturists would apply to a Provincial Highway as to a National Highway. That the Province is financially not in a position to develop its Provincial Highways to the desired standard is not in itself a justification for classing any particular road as a National Highway."

* * * * *

"I am further to say that the roads totalling no less then 1130 miles in length have already been classed as National Highways in the Province of Assam. The statement below shows how the National Highway mileage in Assam compares with the average of all Governors' Provinces :—

Per			Assam	Average All Provinces
1. 1000 sq. miles of total area	...	...	20·5	17·3
2. 1000 sq. miles of cultivable area	...	...	90	33
3. 100 Nos. of motor vehicles	...	...	20·8	10·7
4. 10,00,000 Nos. of inhabitants	...	...	111	47

From the above statement it is quite clear that Assam is relatively better provided with National Highways than an 'average' Governor's Province.

In the circumstances explained above, the Government of India regret that they are unable to agree to the inclusion of the two roads in question in the National Highway system."

This refers to the North Trunk Road, Sir. Then again, in letter No. PWR-P/16/47/11,994, dated 16th November 1947, Government of India were again approached on the same subject on a specific Resolution moved by Shri S. Sarma, Member of Legislative Assembly, (that is myself), to the effect, passed by the Assam Road Communication Board held on the 11th and 12th April, 1947. Government of India regretted that they did not see any justification for a reconsideration of the previous decision. This was communicated in their letter No. PL.12 (52)/47, dated 31st December, 1947. Then again a Resolution was moved by Shri B. C. Bhagavati to the same effect and adopted by the State Assembly held on 9th October, 1950 and a copy was sent to the Government of India under letter No.PL-13(3)51, dated 6th February 1951, on the grounds adduced previously, and added that the Government of India were being approached by many other States with the request for inclusion of more and more roads; that they had always had to adhere to their policy of not deviating from the mileage and financial limits that necessarily had to be set to their obligations in respect of roads classified as National Highways, which was arrived at after long deliberations and discussions between the Central and the State Government concerned. It was also

intimated that due to the financial stringency at the Centre, the scope of developing National Highway system has to be limited according to the planned way.

According to the wishes of the Assam Road Communication Board held on 14th June 1952, the Government of India were moved again to reconsider their earlier decision to which the Government of India replied in their letter No.PL-13(18)52, dated 6th October 1952, saying that the Expert Committee which visited the State of Assam accepted the need for bridging three of the four unbridged rivers, *viz.*, Buroi, Dikrong, Ranganadi and recommended Central financial assistance for their construction. This was moved by Shri B. K. Bora, Member of Legislative Assembly.

Once again during the September Session of the Assembly 1952, Shri Sarveswar Baruah, Member, Legislative Assembly, moved another Resolution to the same effect which was adopted in the Assembly. The Government of India were moved again by sending a copy of the same and they replied in their letter No.WIII-37(2)53, dated 26th June 1953, that a sum of Rs.15 lakhs would be made available for construction of Buroi and Dikrong bridges on North Trunk Road and they further advised the State Government to improve the North Trunk Road out of road fund allocation by keeping other works in abeyance if considered necessary. It was also observed by the Government of India that in view of the limited funds available and the fact that the State Government was treated very generously with regard to financial assistance for road construction, they regretted inability to render further financial assistance towards the construction of the North Trunk Road.

The State Government could not however agree to the proposal to keep in abeyance of the road schemes which were recommended for improvement on the Statewise basis by the Assam Road Communication Board.

The matter for improvement of North Trunk Road was again placed before the Assam Road Communication Board. According to their recommendations, schemes costing Rs.140 lakhs were sent to the Government of India for inclusion in the enlarged Five-Year Plan—that is, this Plan.

1.	Bridge over Bhorali	60 lakhs
2.	Surfacing important portion of North Trunk Road between Beki and Sankosh.	15 ,,

3.	Improving bridge approaches to permanent bridges on North Trunk Road between North Lakhimpur and Beki.	2	Lakhs
4.	Replacement of temporary bridges on North Trunk Road between North Lakhimpur and Beki river.	10	,,
5.	Improvement of North Trunk Road between Beki and Sankosh.	53	,,
		140	,,

Out of these items 1 and 5, *i.e.*, bridge over Bhorali—Rs. 60 lakhs and improvement of N. T. Road between Beki and Sankosh costing Rs. 53 lakhs—have been approved by India and funds will be fully provided by India. Survey of a portion of the scheme has already been taken up.

The present improvement programme undertaken in respect of N. T. Road is detailed below. This includes the two projects recently approved to be financed entirely by India.

	Rs. in Lakhs	
1. Bridge over Buroi ...	16·42	Government of India will bear half the cost.
2. Bridge over Dikrong ...	21·90	Do. do.
3. Bridge over Ranganadi ...	15·00	Do. do.
4. Dhansiri bridge ...	6·34	under Five-Year Plan
5. Gabru bridge ...	2·11	under Petrol Tax Fund
6. Diversion of North Trunk Road *via* Depota Ghogra Thelamara.	3·24	under Five-Year Plan.
7. Asphalting North Trunk Road near Kharupatia Bazar.	·69	Do. do.
8. Bridging North Trunk Road in North Kamrup Division.	3·00	Do. do.
9. Bridge over Pagladiya ...	1·36	State revenue.
10. Chapaguri Garubhassa Road (a portion of old North Trunk Road in Goalpara —Section 1.)	1·40	Motor Tax Fund.
11. Do. do. Section 11	1·00	Tribal Area Fund (Further works to be done under North Trunk Road Schemes).
12. Old North Trunk Road between Manipur and Bagulbari.	·20	Petrol Tax.
13. Bridge over Bhorali ...	60·00	To be financed entirely by India.
14. Improvement of North Trunk Road between Beki and Sankosh.	53·00	
15. Black-topping certain portions of North Trunk Road.	2·50	State revenue.
	188·16	

Sir, this is the position. The Government of India has not agreed to our other proposals except those referred to above. This was again placed before the last meeting of the Road Communication Board held on 25th March, 1955. In that meeting all these facts were also placed for consideration. Shri B. Bhagavati pressed for permission for surfacing the entire portion of the North Trunk Road not covered by Railway. The Assam Road Communication Board unanimously agreed that the North Trunk Road should be treated as a State Highway. The proposal of the Assam Railway Communication Board has been considered in the last meeting of the Development Committee held during this month, and it has been decided to improve and black-top the portion of North Trunk Road between North Lakhimpur and Beki in Barpeta Subdivision, during the Second Five-Year Plan.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the length of the road ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): About 280 miles, or 300 miles including diversions. Money has also been provided to improve the entire portion of the road from North Lakhimpur to Sonarigoan under the Second Five-Year Plan. Sonarigoan is just opposite to Dibrugarh. This portion of the road was also a part of the North Trunk Road. The length of the portion of this road from Subansiri to Sonari will be about 40 miles. During the last great earthquake this portion of the North Trunk Road was badly damaged and was abandoned for the time being. Later on, however, a portion of this abandoned road from North Lakhimpur to Subansiri has again been taken up for improvement as a gravelled road. Recently, Union Deputy Minister for Transport and Railways, Shri Alagesan, visited this State. This matter was again discussed with him at great length. It had been pointed out to him that although there is provision for improvement of the road from Beki to Sankosh, there is, however, no provision for bridging the big rivers, in this portion of the road, such as the Manas, Bhalukadaba, Aie, etc. In our meeting with him the State Government urged upon him the necessity of providing either funds for bridging these rivers, or decking of the railway bridges by the Government of India so that Assam may have an all weather road from Sankosh to Sonarigoan. As you are aware, in a matter like this, it is not possible for the Deputy Minister to make any commitment without prior consultation with the Government of India. He had, however, assured us that the matter will receive sympathetic consideration and Government of Assam may expect 50 per cent of contribution for the bridges

which will roughly be about 175 lakhs or so. While it is proposed to start improvement of the portion of the North Trunk Road from Beki to Sankosh during this Five-Year Plan period, the other portion, *i. e.*, the portion between Subansiri and Sonarigoan will be taken up during Second Five-Year period. This is the up-to-date position.

I have placed all the facts before the House. I therefore do not think that any useful purpose will be served at this stage by adopting this Resolution, as it is not likely that by so doing we shall be able to prevail upon the Government to class the North Trunk Road as a National Highway. This may, I think, be considered when the views of the Government of India and that of the Planning Commission become known to State Government on our proposals. Sir, in view of the facts stated by me and in view of the assurance of sympathetic consideration given by Government of India, I hope my Friend, Mr.Bhattacharyya, will be pleased to withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Assembly is of opinion that the State Government do move the Union Government to immediately make the North Trunk Road a National Highway.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I want a division, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Alright.

(The House divided.)

AYES—12

1. Mr. A. S. Khongphai
2. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya
3. Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi
4. Mr. Maham Singh
5. Maulavi Mehrab Ali Laskar
6. Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin
7. Shri Radhacharan Choudhury
8. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das
9. Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal
10. Shri Sarju Prosad Singh
11. Shri Tamizuddin Prodhani
12. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed

NOES—50

1. Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi
2. Shri Motiram Bora
3. Shri Rupnath Brahma
4. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar
5. Shri Ram Nath Das
6. Shri Omeo Kumar Das
7. Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee
8. Shri Siddhinath Sarma
9. Shri Hareswar Das
10. Shri Punananda Chetia
11. Shri Mohi Kanta Das
12. Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua
13. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das
14. Shri Bali Ram Das
15. Shri Bimala Kanta Borah
16. Shri Biswadev Sarma
17. Shri Chanoo Kheria
18. Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar
19. Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa
20. Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari
21. Mr. Emonsing Sangma
22. Maulavi Faiznur Ali
23. Shri Gahan Chandra Goswami
24. Shri Girindranath Gogoi
25. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha
26. Shri Harihar Choudhury
27. Shri Harinarayan Baruah
28. Shri Hemchandra Hazarka
29. Shri Jadab Chandra Khakhlari
30. Shri Jatindra Narayan Das
31. Shri Joybhadra Hagjer
32. Shri Jogakanta Baruah
33. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala
34. Shri Kistobin Rymbai
35. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed
36. Swami Krishnananda Bramachari
37. Shri Lila Kanta Barah
38. Maulavi Md. Idris
39. Maulavi Mahmud Ali
40. Shri Mahendra Hazarika
41. Shri Mohendra Nath Deka
42. Shri Nilmani Phookan
43. Maulavi Nurul Islam
44. Shri Prabhat Chandra Goswami
45. Shri Purandar Sarma
46. Shri Radhika Ram Das
47. Shri Raghunandan Dhubi
48. Shri Raichand Nath
49. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua
50. Shri Ramesh Chandra Das Chawdhury

(The Resolution was negatived.)

Private Members' Resolution to raise the Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology to the status of a full-fledged Engineering College of the State.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to raise the His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology to the status of a full-fledged Engineering College of the State.

Sir, before I speak on this Resolution, I want to read a few statements on which this Resolution stands.

I am reading a few extracts from the proceedings of the public meeting held at Jorhat Bisturam Hall premises in observance of the "Engineering College Day" on 11th June 1955.

"……In the year 1948, an Expert Committee was formed by the late Lokapriya Bordoloi which consisted of Dr. Triguna Sen, Principal, Jadavpur Engineering College, Mr. M. Sen Gupta, Principal, Benares Engineering College, and Mr. R. W. Faibern, the then Principal, Delhi Polytechnic and several others, who after a thorough inspection recommended the raising of the Institute to a full-fledged Engineering College with all the sections—Civil, Mechanical and Electrical……" and further, Sir, I am again reading an extract from the same proceedings "……The All India Council of Technical Education gave their opinion recommending establishment of the Engineering College at Jorhat in view of the facilities obtained at Jorhat and the potentialities the Institute possessed for a full-fledged College……" and further, Sir, lands were only to be acquired by the Government in the vicinity of the Jorhat Institute of Engineering and Technology for establishing the Engineering College at Jorhat.

Sir, I brought this Resolution before the House during the last March Session, and it still stands till today.

I happened to attend the meeting at Jorhat on the 11th June, 1955 and leaders like Congress M. P., M. L. As. and many other Congressmen agreed to form a sub-committee so that the Government may change its decision of locating the college at Gauhati.

Now, Sir, coming to Shillong, I saw in the Supplementary Grants presented by the Finance Minister at page 11—Grant No.9, the sum of Rs. 81,425 was sanctioned for a Civil Engineering College at Gauhati and again at page 52 in the remarks column it is seen—"It has been decided to establish an Engineering College at Gauhati with effect from August, 1955."

Sir, this is the state of affairs we did not know beforehand whether the college will actually be established at Jorhat or Gauhati, but from the Supplementary Demands presented before the House by the Finance Minister, it is clearly seen that the college is going to be established at Gauhati. So, the materials are presented before the House.

But we see now that the Government is intending to do otherwise inspite of the fact that Lokapriya Bordoloi in 1948 constituted a committee to go into the matter to see that this institute is developed into an engineering college of technology. The late B. Barua, a business magnitude of Assam, donated about a lakh of rupees for this institute with the hope that this institute would soon be developed into an engineering college at Jorhat while it afforded various opportunities for the purpose. Though Assam is not an industrial State, yet this State produces petrol at Digboi and has tea estates in the districts of Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Nowgong and besides that there are such other allied materials which afford good opportunities for establishing an engineering college at a central place like Jorhat.

Further, Sir, I want to state before the House that in the statement made by Shri O. K. Das, the present Education Minister, while attending the Silver Jubilee of this school said that this institute would be developed into an engineering college before long. I am sorry to observe that inspite of that statement made by him, Government is now taking a different attitude.

This Resolution was tabled in the last Budget Session of the Assembly and the Government knew it well that there was such a Resolution like this and yet Government did not pay any heed to the Resolution and now when this Resolution is before the House, how can the Government take a different decision? Inspite of my Resolution and inspite of the statement made by the Education Minister, how can the Government take a different attitude, I do not understand.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to raise the His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology to the status of a full-fledged Engineering College of the State.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving the Resolution, the Mover, Mr. Gogoi, has expressed his grievance that instead of establishing the engineering college at Jorhat the Government has decided to establish it at Gauhati. He has not said what sort of engineering college he wants at Jorhat. Now there is already a nucleus of an engineering institute at Jorhat which has been in existence for a long time. This is an institution for imparting instruction in mechanical engineering. As a matter of fact there are two kinds of engineering, namely, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering and civil engineering but we are concerned here with civil engineering and mechanical engineering. These two kinds of engineering must be established in a State like ours. There is a Mechanical Engineering College at Kharagpur and Civil Engineering Colleges at Sibpur, Jadabpur, Aligarh, Benaras and so on. If there should be a Civil Engineering College in Assam, I believe there will be no difficulty in raising the Civil Engineering School at Gauhati to the status of a Civil Engineering College, and similarly in raising the Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology at Jorhat to the status of full-fledged Mechanical Engineering College. We are no doubt in greater need of a Civil Engineering College to turn out engineers for construction of roads, bridges, etc. We are also in need of a mechanical engineering college in our State. As far as civil engineering college is concerned, the need is far greater and very soon the need will grow more and more as we take in hand more development programmes. Similarly the need for a mechanical engineering college will also grow. I do not know what Mr. Gogoi means to have—whether he wants to have the Prince of Wales Institute of Engineering and Technology raised to the status of a mechanical engineering college or civil engineering college. But while our State needs both of them, I do not think there will be any difficulty to start the civil engineering college at Gauhati and the mechanical engineering college at Jorhat. In view of this, I do not think there will be any difficulty to accept Mr. Gogoi's Resolution and to give effect to it immediately.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on this important Resolution which is before the House for the last two or three months. In the meantime there might have been some misunderstanding in the Press and platform, but that does not concern me. I should only like to point out that the present technical school at Jorhat be raised to the status of a full-fledged engineering college. From the time of our Lokapriya Bordoloi upto the time of our present Chief Minister, some three or four Expert Committees have come and gone for the purpose of examining whether that technical institute at Jorhat can be raised to the status of an engineering college, but their unanimous opinion was that this institute should be raised to the status of an engineering college. Everything—the whole atmosphere with regard to that institute—points to that and from that point of view the location is also a very important factor. This is their recommendation.

If the Government side places all those recommendations before the House, then what I have said will be proved clearly, unequivocally and fairly. So, I need not repeat all these things and I am sure, if necessary, the Government side will read out those recommendations and after that, I feel confident, the House will be convinced that those recommendations were that the Technical School should be raised to a full-fledged college. Now, as regards a full-fledged college, we may have different ideas and make different interpretations. Of course, when some of the Expert Committees said that it should be raised to a full-fledged college, possibly we might think that the mechanical and electrical side of the institution should be raised to the status of a college. But I want to point out that the last report of the Expert Committee clearly indicated that not only the mechanical and electrical sides should be raised to college standard but also the civil side may be very usefully placed along with that college at Jorhat and that will economise expenditure upto about 50 per cent. This is the last recommendation in clear language by the Expert Committee which came last to decide this matter. Then, Sir, the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister, the Education Minister and other Ministers who happened to be there in connection with the inspection of the college or to preside over some of the functions of the college, stated distinctly that the Jorhat Technical School would be raised to the status of a college. They assured us that the college would be nowhere except at Jorhat. When they, from their position of authority and also as leaders of public opinion, unequivocally stated

that this institute would be raised to the status of a college, we had no misgiving on that account. Somehow or other, some misgiving was created by some Press reports and as responsible Members of the House we had to bring this matter to the notice of the Government. The other day when I met the Education Minister here, only two weeks back, I asked him about it and he definitely stated that the Cabinet decisions was there to raise the Jorhat Technical School to the status of a college, but he for himself felt that all the three branches should be at Gauhati. He told me, "the Cabinet decision is there, you may take the college there but it will not be proper, in my opinion". Of course, he said that that was his personal opinion. He said, "the Cabinet decision was there, but my advice is to make a full-fledged college at Gauhati and it will get the benefit of university professors, and so on". Then I said that the clear verdict of all the Expert Committees was that the three branches should be developed at Jorhat with economy. The last Committee's report also clearly stated that all the three branches should be located at Jorhat. I also told him that I did not know on what basis the Cabinet decision was made, but in view of the successive recommendations of the Expert Committees, the Cabinet might also like to revise their decision.

Then, Sir, as my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, pointed out, with all due respect to the high commands of this side, I should also like to say that the Cabinet Ministers have every right to come to any decision. But they must come to a decision which would be acceptable to the House and also to the public. When there was a Resolution in this House on this matter and when there was some misgiving about it in the country, would it not have been prudent on their part to wait and see whether the Resolution is accepted or rejected by the House before taking a final decision that the civil engineering college should be located at Gauhati ? Of course, Sir, I am very clear about this in my mind. I know, Sir, that sometimes my proposals are thought by some people to be Utopian, chimerical and unpractical. But I have seen in my public life that many things which people believed to be Utopian were now established facts. I can emphatically say, nay I can prophesy, that under the modern conditions and scientific knowledge, both in theory and practice, the Jorhat Technical School will have to be developed into a full-fledged engineeing college in all the three branches—mechanical, electrical and civil. Someday Government will have to do it. I have absolutely no doubt about this. But what I do feel that the Cabinet ought

to have waited for the decision on this Resolution before they decided to establish the Civil Engineering College at Gauhati. A delay of a month or so would not have mattered much. When a Resolution on the subject was pending, it was almost incumbent on the Government to wait for the verdict of this august House before coming to a decision. However, it is not too late. At any rate, I want the Jorhat college should be developed into a full-fledged college and this has been clearly indicated in the report of the Expert Committee which came to this State for this purpose.

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully sympathise with the sentiment expressed in the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Gogoi. I support what has been said by my Friend, Mr. Nilmani Phookan, also.

Sir, I understand that the Expert Committee has given their considered opinion that the Engineering College should be at Jorhat. We must satisfy the wishes of a large section of the people when we are responsible Members of this august House. Great discontentment has been prevailing in the country. There had been meetings, processions and all that which is known to all hon.Members. We do not mind to have an engineering college at Gauhati but we mind that this Institution which we have already at Jorhat for several years and which was the wish of the late Bordoloi, of revered memory, that it should be developed in time into a full-fledged college ; to respect his wish and memory and to respect the recommendations given from time to time by different Committees that this institution should be raised to the status of a college as has been said by Mr. Phookan that this will be economic if we have all these three wings of electrical, mechanical and civil engineering in the Jorhat institution, we should have the engineering college at Jorhat. It is said that there is a university at Gauhati and that the professors will be available to teach the boys in the college also if it is at Gauhati. But what about so many houses, so many buildings and large plots of land at Jorhat which will be available for an engineeing college there ? I understand that there is an industrial institute at Jorhat of the Government of India and it has been recommended I am told, that 50 per cent of the cost to be borne by State Government and the balance of 50 per cent by Government of India and if that be so, then these two institutions may be combined and that will be economical also, and a separate engineering college may be established there.

Sir, when there is discontentment and agitation in a large part of this State, I think, it would be fit and proper to respect their wishes and with these words, I commend the Resolution of Mr. Gogoi, to raise the Jorhat Technical Institution into the status of a college with the three wings, namely, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. I whole-heartedly support, therefore the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Gogoi.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to speak a few words in respect of this Resolution.

I did not expect that this resolution would make some of the respectable Members of the House to speak on parochia ism. and localism (*Laughter*). Sir, this is the desire of all that there should be a full-fledged Engineering College in Assam but regarding its location, I am surprised that if people from Jorhat want that it should be localised in that area and people of Goalpara or Cachar also want that it should be in their respective districts, there will be no settlement. When we consider of establishing a State-wise institution, it should be located in such a place where the people of different areas can have better communication and other facilities. Only to save a few thousands of rupees by converting this Technical Institution at Jorhat to a college you are going to place lakhs and lakhs of people of outlying areas into difficulties for generation to come. Let us give up localism and if a full-fledged college is to be established let it be established, at Gauhati. This is the view of several lakhs of people of Cachar and, I believe, it is the view of the Lushai Hills people as well. You know that from Cachar and Lushai Hills we have got to come through a hill section and it will be difficult for those people to go to a further away place than Gauhati for the purpose of having engineering education.

Sir, by converting the Technical Institution to a college, we might be saving Rs.50 or 60 thousand or a lakh, if book value is taken. Side by side establishment of further schools for engineering courses in different places also is necessary, and as such we should not disturb the existing school at Jorhat. Let there be a full-fledged college at Gauhati. I hope, this parochialism and localism given out by some hon. Members of the House should be given up in future.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, I want to oppose strongly the terms "localism" and "parochialism" expressed by the hon. Member. It is the considered opinion of the Expert Committee

that the Jorhat Institution should be raised to the standard of a full-fledged college and we have expressed the same opinion and in this, how can there be parochialism and localism ? Rather my Friend is reminding me of the days when in all the moves for any institution in Assam Valley, the Sylhet friends wanted to have them at their own district.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : If it is not parochialism or localism then what is parochialism or localism ?

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গগৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাব আজিৰ এই সদনত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে তাৰ প্ৰতি মোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সহানুভূতি আছে। পিচে এটা কথা কবলৈ মই বাধ্য হৈছো আৰু সেইটো কথা আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ ফালৰ পৰা মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত ৰণেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কিছু কৈয়ে গৈছে যদিও মই তেওঁৰ লগত সম্পূৰ্ণ এক মত হব নোৱাৰো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দীৰ্ঘদিন বৃটিশ শাসনৰ কবলৰ পৰা মুক্ত হৈ, আজি মাত্ৰ কেইটামান বছৰ হৈছে আমি আমাৰ দেশখন পুনৰ গঠণ কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছো। দেশ পুনৰ গঠণৰ পৰত, বহুতো চিন্তা আৰু সুপৰিকল্পনা কৰিব লগা আছে। কোনটো দৰ্কাৰী, কোনটো আগ, কোনটো পিছ এই বিলাক পৰিপাটী ভাবে চিন্তা কৰিব লাগিব। অকল প্ৰস্তাবেৰে দেশ গঠণ হব নোৱাৰে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই কব খুজিছো যে, যেতিয়া ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ মেডিকেল স্কুলখন পূৰ্ণ কলেজলৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত কৰা হল তেতিয়া L.M.P. ডাক্তৰৰ.....

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 24th June 1955.

Shillong :

The 27th April 1956.

R.N. BARUA,
Secretary
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.278/56—126—1-5-1956.

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